



2017 Rhode Island Kids Count Factbook

Rhode Island KIDS COUNT is a children's policy organization that provides information on child well-being, stimulates dialogue on children's issues, and promotes accountability and action. Rhode Island KIDS COUNT is a children's policy organization that provides information on child well-being, stimulates dialogue on children's issues, and promotes accountability and action. Rhode Island KIDS COUNT appreciates the generous support of The Rhode Island Foundation, United Way of Rhode Island, The Annie E. Casey Foundation, Prince Charitable Trusts, Alliance for Early Success, DentaQuest Foundation, Nellie Mae Education Foundation, van Beuren Charitable Foundation, Neighborhood Health Plan of Rhode Island, Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island, Delta Dental of Rhode Island, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan, Hasbro Children's Fund, and CVS Health.

The annual *Rhode Island Kids Count Factbook* is one of fifty state-level projects designed to provide a detailed community-by-community picture of the condition of children. A national Data Book with comparable data for the U.S. is produced annually by The Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Additional copies of the *2017 Rhode Island Kids Count Factbook* are available for \$20.00 per copy. Reduced rates are available for bulk orders. To receive copies of the *Factbook*, please contact:

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## ***2017 Rhode Island Kids Count Factbook***

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\*New Indicator

# Overview

The *2017 Rhode Island Kids Count Factbook* is the twenty-third annual profile of the well-being of children in Rhode Island. The annual Factbook is an important tool for planning and action by community leaders, policy makers, advocates, and others working toward changes that will improve the quality of life for all children.

The *2017 Rhode Island Kids Count Factbook* provides a statistical portrait of the status of Rhode Island's children and youth. Information is presented for the state of Rhode Island, for each city and town, and for an aggregate of the four cities in which the highest percentages of children are living in poverty. These four core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

The *Factbook* provides community-level information on indicators in order to emphasize the significance of the surrounding physical, social, and economic environment in shaping outcomes for children. Communities and neighborhoods do matter – the actions of community leaders, government leaders, elected officials, businesses, faith organizations, and parents greatly influence children's chances for success and the challenges they will face.

By examining the best available data statewide and in Rhode Island's 39 cities and towns, Rhode Island KIDS COUNT provides an information base that can result in more effective policy and community action on behalf of children. Tracking changes in selected indicators can help communities to set priorities, identify strategies to reverse negative trends, and monitor progress.

The *2017 Rhode Island Kids Count Factbook* examines 72 indicators in five areas that affect the lives of children: Family and Community, Economic Well-Being, Health, Safety, and Education. All areas of child well-being are interrelated and critical throughout a child's development. A child's safety in his or her family and community affects school performance; a child's economic security affects his or her health and education. The *2017 Rhode Island Kids Count Factbook* reflects these interrelationships and builds a framework to guide policy, programs, and individual services on behalf of children and youth.

## Family Economic Security

Children most at risk of not achieving their full potential are children in poverty. Rhode Island's child poverty rate was 20.4% between 2011 and 2015, during which time there were 43,282 children living in families with incomes below the federal poverty threshold. Many families with incomes above the poverty level also have a difficult time meeting the high costs of housing, utilities, food, child care, and health care. Access to affordable and high-quality early learning opportunities, Pre-K to 12 education, health insurance coverage, housing, and nutrition, along with policies that support working families, are important tools to ensure the economic well-being of Rhode Island families and to improve child outcomes.

## Child Poverty is Concentrated in Four Core Cities

Poverty is linked to every KIDS COUNT indicator. Between 2011 and 2015, nearly two-thirds (62%) of Rhode Island's children living in poverty lived in just four cities. These communities (Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket) are the four core cities highlighted throughout the *Factbook*. Children in poverty live in every community in Rhode Island, but these four communities deserve special attention because they are where child poverty is most concentrated.

## Ensuring Educational Attainment for All Children

Improving student achievement and high school graduation rates in Rhode Island will require focused leadership to ensure that all young children have access to the high quality early learning experiences, health care, and developmental services needed for school readiness. Schools and community leaders can implement comprehensive, evidence-based strategies from birth through third grade that lead to proficiency in reading and math, maintain high academic standards across the curriculum in all grades, and ensure that all youth graduate from high school with the skills they need to succeed in college and in Rhode Island's workforce.

# Family and Community

# Child Population

## DEFINITION

*Child population* is the total number of children under age 18 and the percentage change between 2000 and 2010 in the total number of children under age 18.

## SIGNIFICANCE

According to the American Community Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, there were 1,056,298 Rhode Island residents in 2015. Children under age 18 make up 20% of the population. Between 2000 and 2015, Rhode Island's child population decreased by 15% from 247,822 to 211,875.<sup>1,2</sup> Between 2011 and 2015, there were 119,896 households with children under age 18 in Rhode Island, representing 29% of all households.<sup>3</sup> Twenty-six percent of Rhode Island children were under age five, 27% were ages five to nine, 29% were ages 10 to 14, and 18% were ages 15 to 17.<sup>4</sup>

In Rhode Island between 2011 and 2015, 123,286 (57%) children under age 18 lived in married-couple households, 69,593 (32%) children lived in single-parent households, and 18,345 (9%) children lived with relatives, including grandparents and other relatives. A total of 2,948 (1%) children lived with foster families or other unrelated heads of household.

There were 801 (<1%) children and youth under age 18 who lived in group quarters and 46 (<1%) youth who were householders or spouses.<sup>5,6,7</sup>

Rhode Island's children are diverse in race, ethnicity, language, and country of origin. Mirroring national trends, the number of Hispanic children in Rhode Island has grown since 2000, both in numbers and as a percentage of the child population. Hispanics now make up 24% of children under age 18 in the United States and 22% of children under age 18 in Rhode Island.<sup>8,9,10,11</sup>

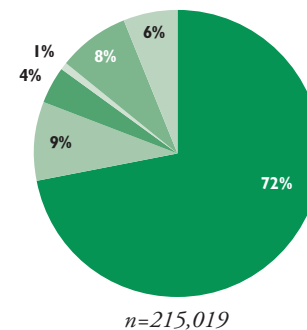
Between 2011 and 2015, there were 8,844 foreign-born children under the age of 18 living in Rhode Island, representing approximately 4% of the child population.<sup>12</sup> Of Rhode Island children ages five to 17, 77% speak only English at home, 16% speak Spanish, 4% speak other Indo-European languages, 2% speak Asian or Pacific Island languages, and 1% speak other languages at home.<sup>13</sup>

Sexual orientation is another important facet of diversity among youth. According to the *2015 Youth Risk Behavior Survey*, 9.8% of high school students in Rhode Island described themselves as lesbian, gay, or bisexual. This does not include students who responded "not sure" when asked about their sexual orientation.<sup>14</sup>

## Rhode Island Children Under Age 18, 2011-2015

### By Race/Ethnicity\*

|     |                                   |
|-----|-----------------------------------|
| 72% | White                             |
| 9%  | Black                             |
| 4%  | Asian                             |
| 1%  | American Indian and Alaska Native |
| 8%  | Some Other Race                   |
| 6%  | Two or More Races                 |

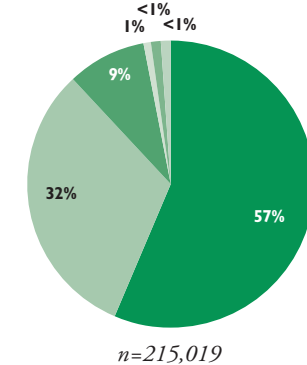


\*Hispanic children may be included in any race category. Of Rhode Island's 215,019 children, 48,362 (22%) were Hispanic.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015. Tables B01001A, B01001B, B01001C, B01001D, B01001E, B01001F, B01001G, and B01001I.

### By Family Structure

|     |                                            |
|-----|--------------------------------------------|
| 57% | Married-Couple**                           |
| 32% | Single-Parent**                            |
| 9%  | 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.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015. Table B09001, B09002, and B09018.

◆ In 2015, children under age 18 made up 20% of Rhode Island's population. Of the 211,875 children under age 18 in Rhode Island in 2015, 51% were male and 49% were female.<sup>15</sup>

◆ Between 2011 and 2015, 59% of children under 18 years of age in Rhode Island lived in owner-occupied housing units and 41% lived in renter-occupied units.<sup>16</sup>

◆ Of children ages three to 17 enrolled in school in Rhode Island between 2011 and 2015, 84% were enrolled in public schools and 16% were enrolled in private schools.<sup>17</sup>

Table 1.

## Child Population, Rhode Island, 2000 and 2010

| CITY/TOWN          | 2000 TOTAL POPULATION UNDER AGE 18 | 2010 TOTAL POPULATION UNDER AGE 18 | CHANGE IN POPULATION UNDER AGE 18 | % CHANGE IN POPULATION UNDER AGE 18 |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Barrington         | 4,745                              | 4,597                              | -148                              | -3.1%                               |
| Bristol            | 4,399                              | 3,623                              | -776                              | -17.6%                              |
| Burrillville       | 4,043                              | 3,576                              | -467                              | -11.6%                              |
| Central Falls      | 5,531                              | 5,644                              | 113                               | 2.0%                                |
| Charlestown        | 1,712                              | 1,506                              | -206                              | -12.0%                              |
| Coventry           | 8,389                              | 7,770                              | -619                              | -7.4%                               |
| Cranston           | 17,098                             | 16,414                             | -684                              | -4.0%                               |
| Cumberland         | 7,690                              | 7,535                              | -155                              | -2.0%                               |
| East Greenwich     | 3,564                              | 3,436                              | -128                              | -3.6%                               |
| East Providence    | 10,546                             | 9,177                              | -1,369                            | -13.0%                              |
| Exeter             | 1,589                              | 1,334                              | -255                              | -16.0%                              |
| Foster             | 1,105                              | 986                                | -119                              | -10.8%                              |
| Glocester          | 2,664                              | 2,098                              | -566                              | -21.2%                              |
| Hopkinton          | 2,011                              | 1,845                              | -166                              | -8.3%                               |
| Jamestown          | 1,238                              | 1,043                              | -195                              | -15.8%                              |
| Johnston           | 5,906                              | 5,480                              | -426                              | -7.2%                               |
| Lincoln            | 5,157                              | 4,751                              | -406                              | -7.9%                               |
| Little Compton     | 780                                | 654                                | -126                              | -16.2%                              |
| Middletown         | 4,328                              | 3,652                              | -676                              | -15.6%                              |
| Narragansett       | 2,833                              | 2,269                              | -564                              | -19.9%                              |
| New Shoreham       | 185                                | 163                                | -22                               | -11.9%                              |
| Newport            | 5,199                              | 4,083                              | -1,116                            | -21.5%                              |
| North Kingstown    | 6,848                              | 6,322                              | -526                              | -7.7%                               |
| North Providence   | 5,936                              | 5,514                              | -422                              | -7.1%                               |
| North Smithfield   | 2,379                              | 2,456                              | 77                                | 3.2%                                |
| Pawtucket          | 18,151                             | 16,575                             | -1,576                            | -8.7%                               |
| Portsmouth         | 4,329                              | 3,996                              | -333                              | -7.7%                               |
| Providence         | 45,277                             | 41,634                             | -3,643                            | -8.0%                               |
| Richmond           | 2,014                              | 1,849                              | -165                              | -8.2%                               |
| Scituate           | 2,635                              | 2,272                              | -363                              | -13.8%                              |
| Smithfield         | 4,019                              | 3,625                              | -394                              | -9.8%                               |
| South Kingstown    | 6,284                              | 5,416                              | -868                              | -13.8%                              |
| Tiverton           | 3,367                              | 2,998                              | -369                              | -11.0%                              |
| Warren             | 2,454                              | 1,940                              | -514                              | -20.9%                              |
| Warwick            | 18,780                             | 15,825                             | -2,955                            | -15.7%                              |
| West Greenwich     | 1,444                              | 1,477                              | 33                                | 2.3%                                |
| West Warwick       | 6,632                              | 5,746                              | -886                              | -13.4%                              |
| Westerly           | 5,406                              | 4,787                              | -619                              | -11.5%                              |
| Woonsocket         | 11,155                             | 9,888                              | -1,267                            | -11.4%                              |
| Four Core Cities   | 80,114                             | 73,741                             | -6,373                            | -8.0%                               |
| Remainder of State | 167,708                            | 150,215                            | -17,493                           | -10.4%                              |
| Rhode Island       | 247,822                            | 223,956                            | -23,866                           | -9.6%                               |

### Source of Data for Table/Methodology

U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 1 and Census 2010, Summary File 1.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

### References

<sup>1,15</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015. Table S0201.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1. Table DP-1.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015. Table S1101.

<sup>4,9</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015. Table B01001.

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015. Table B09002.

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015. Table B09018.

<sup>7</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015. Table B09001.

<sup>8</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Redistricting Summary File. Table QT-PL.

<sup>10</sup> O'Hare, W. (2011). *The changing child population of the United States: Analysis of data from the 2010 Census*. Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation.

<sup>11</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015. Table B01001I.

<sup>12</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015. Table B05003.

<sup>13</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015. Table B16007.

<sup>14</sup> Rhode Island Department of Health, *2015 Youth Risk Behavior Survey*.

<sup>16,17</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015. Table S0901.

# Children in Single-Parent Families

## DEFINITION

*Children in single-parent families* is the percentage of children under age 18 who live in families headed by a person – male or female – without a spouse present in the home. These numbers include “own children,” defined as never-married children under age 18 who are related to the family head by birth, marriage, or adoption.

## SIGNIFICANCE

According to the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey, there were 192,879 children living with one or more parents in Rhode Island between 2011 and 2015. Of these, 36% (69,593) were living with an unmarried parent, up from 33% of children between 2006 and 2010.<sup>1,2</sup>

Children living in single-parent families are more likely to live in poverty than children living in two-parent families. Single-parent families have only one potential wage earner, compared with the two potential wage earners in two-parent families.<sup>3,4</sup>

Between 2011 and 2015, 77% of children living in poverty in Rhode Island were living in single-parent families. Children in single-parent families in Rhode Island were five times more likely to be living in poverty than those in married-couple families. Between 2011 and 2015 in Rhode Island, 41% of children in single-parent

households lived in poverty, compared to 7% of children in married-couple households.<sup>5</sup>

The financial hardship and time constraints experienced by many single parents explain some of the differences in well-being between the children in single-parent households and those in two-parent households.<sup>6,7</sup> Regardless of parents’ race and level of educational attainment, children who reside in single-parent households (whether due to divorce or the parents never having been married) are at an increased risk for low academic achievement and low levels of social and emotional well-being.<sup>8,9</sup> Compared to children in married families, children in single-parent families are more likely to lack health insurance coverage, drop out of school, disconnect from the labor force, and become teen parents.<sup>10,11</sup> Regardless of whether children grow up with one or two parents, parenting quality is an important predictor of children’s well-being.<sup>12</sup>

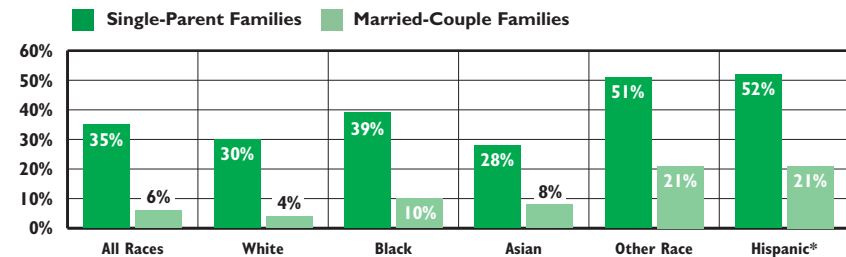
| Single-Parent Families    |      |      |
|---------------------------|------|------|
|                           | 2005 | 2015 |
| <b>RI</b>                 | 33%  | 40%  |
| <b>US</b>                 | 32%  | 35%  |
| <b>National Rank*</b>     |      | 43rd |
| <b>New England Rank**</b> |      | 6th  |

\*1st is best; 50th is worst

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

The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, datacenter.kidscount.org

**Families With Children Under Age 18 and Income Below the Poverty Threshold by Race & Ethnicity, Rhode Island, 2011-2015**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015. Tables B17010, B17010A, B17010B, B17010D, B17010F, B17010I. \*Hispanics may be in any race category.

◆ **Hispanic single-parent families in Rhode Island are more than one and a half times as likely as White single-parent families to live in poverty. Hispanic, Other race, and Black married-couple families are more likely than White and Asian married-couple families in Rhode Island to live in poverty.**<sup>13</sup>

## Family Structure and Child Well-Being

◆ **Family structure influences children’s social, emotional, and cognitive development. Children born to and raised in married-parent families have higher rates of economic, social, and psychological stability compared to children in single-parent families. Children living in single-parent households are more likely to face educational challenges and are more likely to live in poverty than children in married-couple families.**<sup>14,15</sup>

◆ **Children in the U.S. live in a variety of family structures. Among those who live with at least one of their biological parents, 59% live in ‘simple families’ with only biological parent(s) and full sibling(s), and 41% live in ‘complex families’ with single parents, stepparents, stepsiblings, and/or half siblings. Family structure varies by education, with one in two children whose parents have a high school diploma or less education and about one in five children with a college-educated parent living in ‘complex’ families.**<sup>16</sup>

◆ **After increasing for several decades, the proportion of births to unmarried families in the U.S. has leveled off at just over 40%.<sup>17</sup> Babies born to cohabiting couples comprise nearly 60% of nonmarital births and 25% of all births in the U.S., and account for nearly the entire increase in nonmarital births.**<sup>18</sup>

# Children in Single-Parent Families

Table 2.

Children's Living Arrangements, Rhode Island, 2010

| CITY/TOWN          | CHILDREN LIVING IN HOUSEHOLDS | CHILDREN WHO ARE A HOUSEHOLDER OR SPOUSE |     | CHILDREN LIVING WITH NON-RELATIVES |    | CHILDREN LIVING WITH OTHER RELATIVES |    | CHILDREN LIVING IN MARRIED-COUPLE FAMILIES |     | CHILDREN LIVING WITH GRANDPARENTS |    | CHILDREN LIVING IN SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES |     |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----|------------------------------------|----|--------------------------------------|----|--------------------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------|----|-------------------------------------------|-----|
|                    |                               | N                                        | %   | N                                  | %  | N                                    | %  | N                                          | %   | N                                 | %  | N                                         | %   |
| Barrington         | 4,597                         | 2                                        | <1% | 31                                 | 1% | 15                                   | 0% | 3,871                                      | 84% | 85                                | 2% | 593                                       | 13% |
| Bristol            | 3,621                         | 1                                        | <1% | 37                                 | 1% | 51                                   | 1% | 2,564                                      | 71% | 225                               | 6% | 743                                       | 21% |
| Burrillville       | 3,548                         | 0                                        | 0%  | 110                                | 3% | 26                                   | 1% | 2,353                                      | 66% | 232                               | 7% | 827                                       | 23% |
| Central Falls      | 5,634                         | 3                                        | <1% | 90                                 | 2% | 209                                  | 4% | 2,159                                      | 38% | 429                               | 8% | 2,744                                     | 49% |
| Charlestown        | 1,506                         | 0                                        | 0%  | 15                                 | 1% | 20                                   | 1% | 1,059                                      | 70% | 106                               | 7% | 306                                       | 20% |
| Coventry           | 7,762                         | 2                                        | <1% | 148                                | 2% | 72                                   | 1% | 5,343                                      | 69% | 549                               | 7% | 1,648                                     | 21% |
| Cranston           | 16,262                        | 5                                        | <1% | 226                                | 1% | 324                                  | 2% | 10,462                                     | 64% | 1,027                             | 6% | 4,218                                     | 26% |
| Cumberland         | 7,535                         | 0                                        | 0%  | 97                                 | 1% | 53                                   | 1% | 5,651                                      | 75% | 334                               | 4% | 1,400                                     | 19% |
| East Greenwich     | 3,436                         | 0                                        | 0%  | 21                                 | 1% | 13                                   | 0% | 2,889                                      | 84% | 71                                | 2% | 442                                       | 13% |
| East Providence    | 9,100                         | 2                                        | <1% | 127                                | 1% | 154                                  | 2% | 5,329                                      | 59% | 675                               | 7% | 2,813                                     | 31% |
| Exeter             | 1,300                         | 0                                        | 0%  | 23                                 | 2% | 16                                   | 1% | 996                                        | 77% | 82                                | 6% | 183                                       | 14% |
| Foster             | 986                           | 0                                        | 0%  | 24                                 | 2% | 10                                   | 1% | 741                                        | 75% | 69                                | 7% | 142                                       | 14% |
| Glocester          | 2,098                         | 0                                        | 0%  | 39                                 | 2% | 26                                   | 1% | 1,581                                      | 75% | 137                               | 7% | 315                                       | 15% |
| Hopkinton          | 1,845                         | 0                                        | 0%  | 46                                 | 2% | 24                                   | 1% | 1,327                                      | 72% | 113                               | 6% | 335                                       | 18% |
| Jamestown          | 1,043                         | 0                                        | 0%  | 3                                  | 0% | 5                                    | 0% | 799                                        | 77% | 49                                | 5% | 187                                       | 18% |
| Johnston           | 5,473                         | 2                                        | <1% | 90                                 | 2% | 114                                  | 2% | 3,591                                      | 66% | 380                               | 7% | 1,296                                     | 24% |
| Lincoln            | 4,743                         | 3                                        | <1% | 61                                 | 1% | 52                                   | 1% | 3,270                                      | 69% | 211                               | 4% | 1,146                                     | 24% |
| Little Compton     | 654                           | 0                                        | 0%  | 5                                  | 1% | 1                                    | 0% | 528                                        | 81% | 42                                | 6% | 78                                        | 12% |
| Middletown         | 3,634                         | 3                                        | <1% | 45                                 | 1% | 38                                   | 1% | 2,606                                      | 72% | 166                               | 5% | 776                                       | 21% |
| Narragansett       | 2,240                         | 2                                        | <1% | 35                                 | 2% | 25                                   | 1% | 1,533                                      | 68% | 105                               | 5% | 540                                       | 24% |
| New Shoreham       | 163                           | 0                                        | 0%  | 1                                  | 1% | 1                                    | 1% | 111                                        | 68% | 4                                 | 2% | 46                                        | 28% |
| Newport            | 4,060                         | 2                                        | <1% | 66                                 | 2% | 56                                   | 1% | 2,034                                      | 50% | 204                               | 5% | 1,698                                     | 42% |
| North Kingstown    | 6,322                         | 1                                        | <1% | 57                                 | 1% | 49                                   | 1% | 4,639                                      | 73% | 247                               | 4% | 1,329                                     | 21% |
| North Providence   | 5,481                         | 0                                        | 0%  | 81                                 | 1% | 131                                  | 2% | 3,266                                      | 60% | 378                               | 7% | 1,625                                     | 30% |
| North Smithfield   | 2,456                         | 0                                        | 0%  | 40                                 | 2% | 13                                   | 1% | 1,831                                      | 75% | 96                                | 4% | 476                                       | 19% |
| Pawtucket          | 16,550                        | 17                                       | <1% | 239                                | 1% | 460                                  | 3% | 7,488                                      | 45% | 1,228                             | 7% | 7,118                                     | 43% |
| Portsmouth         | 3,940                         | 2                                        | <1% | 47                                 | 1% | 24                                   | 1% | 2,977                                      | 76% | 172                               | 4% | 718                                       | 18% |
| Providence         | 41,497                        | 41                                       | <1% | 632                                | 2% | 1,663                                | 4% | 16,931                                     | 41% | 3,094                             | 7% | 19,136                                    | 46% |
| Richmond           | 1,836                         | 0                                        | 0%  | 32                                 | 2% | 16                                   | 1% | 1,437                                      | 78% | 104                               | 6% | 247                                       | 13% |
| Scituate           | 2,272                         | 0                                        | 0%  | 24                                 | 1% | 22                                   | 1% | 1,731                                      | 76% | 139                               | 6% | 356                                       | 16% |
| Smithfield         | 3,615                         | 2                                        | <1% | 46                                 | 1% | 29                                   | 1% | 2,802                                      | 78% | 164                               | 5% | 572                                       | 16% |
| South Kingstown    | 5,364                         | 0                                        | 0%  | 81                                 | 2% | 31                                   | 1% | 3,951                                      | 74% | 248                               | 5% | 1,053                                     | 20% |
| Tiverton           | 2,998                         | 1                                        | <1% | 41                                 | 1% | 20                                   | 1% | 2,109                                      | 70% | 162                               | 5% | 665                                       | 22% |
| Warren             | 1,935                         | 4                                        | <1% | 42                                 | 2% | 19                                   | 1% | 1,124                                      | 58% | 136                               | 7% | 610                                       | 32% |
| Warwick            | 15,795                        | 3                                        | <1% | 308                                | 2% | 223                                  | 1% | 10,476                                     | 66% | 1,109                             | 7% | 3,676                                     | 23% |
| West Greenwich     | 1,468                         | 2                                        | <1% | 22                                 | 1% | 13                                   | 1% | 1,131                                      | 77% | 79                                | 5% | 221                                       | 15% |
| West Warwick       | 5,746                         | 1                                        | <1% | 151                                | 3% | 121                                  | 2% | 3,118                                      | 54% | 365                               | 6% | 1,990                                     | 35% |
| Westerly           | 4,787                         | 4                                        | <1% | 82                                 | 2% | 83                                   | 2% | 3,012                                      | 63% | 269                               | 6% | 1,337                                     | 28% |
| Woonsocket         | 9,842                         | 10                                       | <1% | 203                                | 2% | 176                                  | 2% | 4,237                                      | 43% | 683                               | 7% | 4,533                                     | 46% |
| Four Core Cities   | 73,523                        | 71                                       | <1% | 1,164                              | 2% | 2,508                                | 3% | 30,815                                     | 42% | 5,434                             | 7% | 33,531                                    | 46% |
| Remainder of State | 149,621                       | 44                                       | <1% | 2,304                              | 2% | 1,890                                | 1% | 102,242                                    | 68% | 8,534                             | 6% | 34,607                                    | 23% |
| Rhode Island       | 223,144                       | 115                                      | <1% | 3,468                              | 2% | 4,398                                | 2% | 133,057                                    | 60% | 13,968                            | 6% | 68,138                                    | 31% |

## Source of Data for Table/Methodology

U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010.

The denominator is the number of children under age 18 living in family households according to Census 2010. A family household is defined by the U.S. Census Bureau as consisting of a householder and one or more people living together in the same household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage or adoption – it may include others not related to the householder.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

## References

- <sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015. Table B09002.
- <sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2006-2010. Table B09002.
- <sup>3,6,12</sup> Waldfogel, J., Craigie, T., & Brooks-Gunn, J. (2010). Fragile families and child wellbeing. *The Future of Children*, 20(2), 87-112.
- <sup>4,7</sup> *Family structure*. (2015). Washington, DC: Child Trends.
- <sup>5</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015. Table B17006.
- <sup>8,10</sup> Blackwell, D. L. (2010). Family structure and children's health in the United States: Findings from the National Health Interview Survey, 2001-2007. *Vital and Health Statistics*, 10(246). Hyattsville, MD: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- <sup>9</sup> Barajas, M. S. (2011). Academic achievement of children in single parent homes: A critical review. *The Hilltop Review*, 5(1), 13-21.
- <sup>11</sup> Mather, M. (2010). *U.S. children in single-mother families*. Washington, DC: Population Reference Bureau.
- <sup>13</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015. Tables B17010A, B17010B, B17010D, B17010F, B17010I.
- <sup>14</sup> The National Conference on State Legislators. (2012). *Child poverty rates and family structure*. Retrieved December 16, 2016, from www.ncsl.org

(continued on page 174)

# Grandparents Caring for Grandchildren

## DEFINITION

*Grandparents caring for grandchildren* is the percentage of family households in which a grandparent is financially responsible for food, shelter, clothing, child care, etc. for any or all grandchildren under age 18 living in the household.

## SIGNIFICANCE

One in ten children in the United States lives with a grandparent. The number of children living with grandparents rose sharply at the start of the recession and has been stable since 2009. Black children are more likely to be cared for primarily by a grandparent than White, Hispanic, or Asian children.<sup>1</sup>

Grandparents can provide continuity and family support for children in vulnerable families. Children may be in grandparent care because of parental divorce or economic challenges or they have a parent who is unemployed, incarcerated, ill, struggling with substance abuse, or coping with other problems.<sup>2</sup>

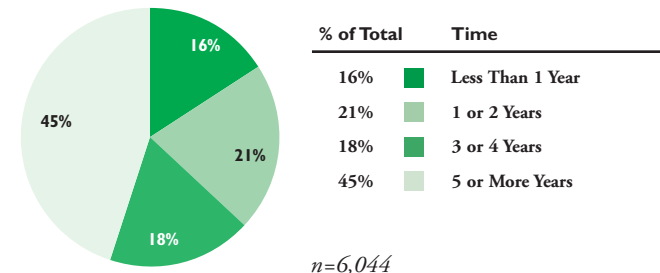
Grandparents who are financially responsible for their grandchildren have higher rates of poverty compared to other adults. Twenty-two percent of grandparent caregivers live below the poverty line, compared to 10% of the population age 50 and over.<sup>3,4</sup>

Many grandparent have informal custody arrangements and are not involved with child welfare agencies, often receiving fewer services than traditional foster parents.<sup>5</sup> Compared to the general population, children in informal kinship care are less likely to be covered by health insurance and are more likely to have physical and mental disabilities.<sup>6</sup>

Grandparents and other relative caregivers can lack information about the support services (such as training, respite, and peer support), resources, programs, and policies available to them.<sup>7</sup> Nearly all children in kinship care are eligible for cash assistance through Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) regardless of their household's income level, yet children in informal custody arrangements are much less likely to receive these payments.<sup>8</sup>

Grandparent caregivers are at risk for poor physical and mental health. They may have difficulty enrolling children in school and/or seeking health insurance or medical care for the children. Many caregivers do not pursue the required legal process required for permanent status to avoid strain on family relationships and due to cost.<sup>9,10,11</sup> Grandparents make up the largest percentage of relative caregivers, but aunts, uncles, cousins, siblings and other relative caregivers may face similar obstacles.<sup>12</sup>

**Rhode Island Grandparents Financially Responsible for Their Grandchildren, by Length of Time Responsible, 2011-2015**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015. Table B10050.

- ◆ Between 2011 and 2015, there were a total of 13,569 children in Rhode Island living in households headed by grandparents.<sup>13</sup> During this time period, there were 6,044 grandparents who were financially responsible for their grandchildren, 63% of whom had been financially responsible for three or more years.<sup>14</sup>
- ◆ In 2010, 6% (13,968) of all children in Rhode Island lived with a grandparent caregiver and 2% (4,398) lived with other relatives.<sup>15</sup>
- ◆ Children in informal kinship care (i.e., placed with relatives without the involvement of a child welfare agency) are more likely to live in poverty than children living with their parents. Nationally, over one-third (38%) of children in public and private kinship care live in poverty. Only 42% of eligible children in kinship care receive Medicaid coverage.<sup>16</sup>
- ◆ Rhode Island regulations state that the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) must give priority to relatives when placing a child in out-of-home care.<sup>17</sup> On December 31, 2016, there were 721 children under age 19 in DCYF care who were in out-of-home placements with a grandparent or other relative. These children made up 39% of all children in out-of-home placements in Rhode Island.<sup>18</sup>
- ◆ The federal *Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act* helps children and youth in foster care establish permanent families through subsidized guardianship and adoption by family members.<sup>19</sup> Rhode Island is one of 33 states with a Guardianship Assistance Program that provides financial assistance payments to grandparents and other relative caregivers who assume legal guardianship.<sup>20</sup>

# Grandparents Caring for Grandchildren

Table 3.

## Children's Living Arrangements, Rhode Island, 2010

| CITY/TOWN          | CHILDREN LIVING IN HOUSEHOLDS | CHILDREN WHO ARE A HOUSEHOLDER OR SPOUSE |     | CHILDREN LIVING WITH NON-RELATIVES |    | CHILDREN LIVING WITH OTHER RELATIVES |    | CHILDREN LIVING IN MARRIED IN COUPLE FAMILIES |     | CHILDREN LIVING IN SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES |     | CHILDREN LIVING WITH GRANDPARENTS |    |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----|------------------------------------|----|--------------------------------------|----|-----------------------------------------------|-----|-------------------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------|----|
|                    |                               | N                                        | %   | N                                  | %  | N                                    | %  | N                                             | %   | N                                         | %   | N                                 | %  |
| Barrington         | 4,597                         | 2                                        | <1% | 31                                 | 1% | 15                                   | 0% | 3,871                                         | 84% | 593                                       | 13% | 85                                | 2% |
| Bristol            | 3,621                         | 1                                        | <1% | 37                                 | 1% | 51                                   | 1% | 2,564                                         | 71% | 743                                       | 21% | 225                               | 6% |
| Burrillville       | 3,548                         | 0                                        | 0%  | 110                                | 3% | 26                                   | 1% | 2,353                                         | 66% | 827                                       | 23% | 232                               | 7% |
| Central Falls      | 5,634                         | 3                                        | <1% | 90                                 | 2% | 209                                  | 4% | 2,159                                         | 38% | 2,744                                     | 49% | 429                               | 8% |
| Charlestown        | 1,506                         | 0                                        | 0%  | 15                                 | 1% | 20                                   | 1% | 1,059                                         | 70% | 306                                       | 20% | 106                               | 7% |
| Coventry           | 7,762                         | 2                                        | <1% | 148                                | 2% | 72                                   | 1% | 5,343                                         | 69% | 1,648                                     | 21% | 549                               | 7% |
| Cranston           | 16,262                        | 5                                        | <1% | 226                                | 1% | 324                                  | 2% | 10,462                                        | 64% | 4,218                                     | 26% | 1,027                             | 6% |
| Cumberland         | 7,535                         | 0                                        | 0%  | 97                                 | 1% | 53                                   | 1% | 5,651                                         | 75% | 1,400                                     | 19% | 334                               | 4% |
| East Greenwich     | 3,436                         | 0                                        | 0%  | 21                                 | 1% | 13                                   | 0% | 2,889                                         | 84% | 442                                       | 13% | 71                                | 2% |
| East Providence    | 9,100                         | 2                                        | <1% | 127                                | 1% | 154                                  | 2% | 5,329                                         | 59% | 2,813                                     | 31% | 675                               | 7% |
| Exeter             | 1,300                         | 0                                        | 0%  | 23                                 | 2% | 16                                   | 1% | 996                                           | 77% | 183                                       | 14% | 82                                | 6% |
| Foster             | 986                           | 0                                        | 0%  | 24                                 | 2% | 10                                   | 1% | 741                                           | 75% | 142                                       | 14% | 69                                | 7% |
| Glocester          | 2,098                         | 0                                        | 0%  | 39                                 | 2% | 26                                   | 1% | 1,581                                         | 75% | 315                                       | 15% | 137                               | 7% |
| Hopkinton          | 1,845                         | 0                                        | 0%  | 46                                 | 2% | 24                                   | 1% | 1,327                                         | 72% | 335                                       | 18% | 113                               | 6% |
| Jamestown          | 1,043                         | 0                                        | 0%  | 3                                  | 0% | 5                                    | 0% | 799                                           | 77% | 187                                       | 18% | 49                                | 5% |
| Johnston           | 5,473                         | 2                                        | <1% | 90                                 | 2% | 114                                  | 2% | 3,591                                         | 66% | 1,296                                     | 24% | 380                               | 7% |
| Lincoln            | 4,743                         | 3                                        | <1% | 61                                 | 1% | 52                                   | 1% | 3,270                                         | 69% | 1,146                                     | 24% | 211                               | 4% |
| Little Compton     | 654                           | 0                                        | 0%  | 5                                  | 1% | 1                                    | 0% | 528                                           | 81% | 78                                        | 12% | 42                                | 6% |
| Middletown         | 3,634                         | 3                                        | <1% | 45                                 | 1% | 38                                   | 1% | 2,606                                         | 72% | 776                                       | 21% | 166                               | 5% |
| Narragansett       | 2,240                         | 2                                        | <1% | 35                                 | 2% | 25                                   | 1% | 1,533                                         | 68% | 540                                       | 24% | 105                               | 5% |
| New Shoreham       | 163                           | 0                                        | 0%  | 1                                  | 1% | 1                                    | 1% | 111                                           | 68% | 46                                        | 28% | 4                                 | 2% |
| Newport            | 4,060                         | 2                                        | <1% | 66                                 | 2% | 56                                   | 1% | 2,034                                         | 50% | 1,698                                     | 42% | 204                               | 5% |
| North Kingstown    | 6,322                         | 1                                        | <1% | 57                                 | 1% | 49                                   | 1% | 4,639                                         | 73% | 1,329                                     | 21% | 247                               | 4% |
| North Providence   | 5,481                         | 0                                        | 0%  | 81                                 | 1% | 131                                  | 2% | 3,266                                         | 60% | 1,625                                     | 30% | 378                               | 7% |
| North Smithfield   | 2,456                         | 0                                        | 0%  | 40                                 | 2% | 13                                   | 1% | 1,831                                         | 75% | 476                                       | 19% | 96                                | 4% |
| Pawtucket          | 16,550                        | 17                                       | <1% | 239                                | 1% | 460                                  | 3% | 7,488                                         | 45% | 7,118                                     | 43% | 1,228                             | 7% |
| Portsmouth         | 3,940                         | 2                                        | <1% | 47                                 | 1% | 24                                   | 1% | 2,977                                         | 76% | 718                                       | 18% | 172                               | 4% |
| Providence         | 41,497                        | 41                                       | <1% | 632                                | 2% | 1,663                                | 4% | 16,931                                        | 41% | 19,136                                    | 46% | 3,094                             | 7% |
| Richmond           | 1,836                         | 0                                        | 0%  | 32                                 | 2% | 16                                   | 1% | 1,437                                         | 78% | 247                                       | 13% | 104                               | 6% |
| Scituate           | 2,272                         | 0                                        | 0%  | 24                                 | 1% | 22                                   | 1% | 1,731                                         | 76% | 356                                       | 16% | 139                               | 6% |
| Smithfield         | 3,615                         | 2                                        | <1% | 46                                 | 1% | 29                                   | 1% | 2,802                                         | 78% | 572                                       | 16% | 164                               | 5% |
| South Kingstown    | 5,364                         | 0                                        | 0%  | 81                                 | 2% | 31                                   | 1% | 3,951                                         | 74% | 1,053                                     | 20% | 248                               | 5% |
| Tiverton           | 2,998                         | 1                                        | <1% | 41                                 | 1% | 20                                   | 1% | 2,109                                         | 70% | 665                                       | 22% | 162                               | 5% |
| Warren             | 1,935                         | 4                                        | <1% | 42                                 | 2% | 19                                   | 1% | 1,124                                         | 58% | 610                                       | 32% | 136                               | 7% |
| Warwick            | 15,795                        | 3                                        | <1% | 308                                | 2% | 223                                  | 1% | 10,476                                        | 66% | 3,676                                     | 23% | 1,109                             | 7% |
| West Greenwich     | 1,468                         | 2                                        | <1% | 22                                 | 1% | 13                                   | 1% | 1,131                                         | 77% | 221                                       | 15% | 79                                | 5% |
| West Warwick       | 5,746                         | 1                                        | <1% | 151                                | 3% | 121                                  | 2% | 3,118                                         | 54% | 1,990                                     | 35% | 365                               | 6% |
| Westerly           | 4,787                         | 4                                        | <1% | 82                                 | 2% | 83                                   | 2% | 3,012                                         | 63% | 1,337                                     | 28% | 269                               | 6% |
| Woonsocket         | 9,842                         | 10                                       | <1% | 203                                | 2% | 176                                  | 2% | 4,237                                         | 43% | 4,533                                     | 46% | 683                               | 7% |
| Four Core Cities   | 73,523                        | 71                                       | <1% | 1,164                              | 2% | 2,508                                | 3% | 30,815                                        | 42% | 33,531                                    | 46% | 5,434                             | 7% |
| Remainder of State | 149,621                       | 44                                       | <1% | 2,304                              | 2% | 1,890                                | 1% | 102,242                                       | 68% | 34,607                                    | 23% | 8,534                             | 6% |
| Rhode Island       | 223,144                       | 115                                      | <1% | 3,468                              | 2% | 4,398                                | 2% | 133,057                                       | 60% | 68,138                                    | 31% | 13,968                            | 6% |

### Source of Data for Table/Methodology

U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010.

The denominator is the number of children under age 18 living in family households according to Census 2010. A family household is defined by the U.S. Census Bureau as consisting of a householder and one or more people living together in the same household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage or adoption – it may include others not related to the householder.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

### References

- <sup>14</sup> Livingston, G. (2013). *At grandmother's house we stay*. Washington, DC: Pew Research Center.
- <sup>23</sup> Murphey, D., Cooper, M., & Moore, K. A. (2012). *Grandparents living with children: State-level data from the American Community Survey*. Washington, DC: Child Trends.
- <sup>5</sup> Walsh, W. A. (2013). *Informal kinship care most common out-of-home placement after an investigation of child maltreatment*. Durham, NH: Carsey Institute, University of New Hampshire.
- <sup>6,8,9,16</sup> KIDS COUNT. (2012). *Stepping up for kids: What government and communities should do to support kinship families*. Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation.
- <sup>7</sup> Walsh, W. A. & Mattlingly, M. J. (2014). *Related foster parents less likely to receive support services compared with nonrelative foster parents*. Durham, NH: Carsey Institute, University of New Hampshire.
- <sup>10,19</sup> Generations United. (2011). *Grandfamilies: Challenges of caring for the second family*. Washington, DC: Generations United.
- <sup>11</sup> Vandivere, S., Yrausquin, A., Allen, T., Malm, K., & McKlindon, A. (2012). *Children in nonparental care: A review of the literature and analysis of data gaps*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation.

(continued on page 174)

# Mother's Education Level

## DEFINITION

*Mother's education level* is the percentage of total births to women with less than a high school diploma. Data are self-reported at the time of the infant's birth. Although a father's education level has an impact on his child's development, this indicator uses maternal education level because a significant number of birth records lack information on paternal education level.

## SIGNIFICANCE

Parental educational attainment can have an impact on many aspects of child well-being, including children's health and health-related behaviors, children's access to sufficient educational resources, and the level of education they will ultimately achieve. Children of less educated parents are less likely to succeed in school, more likely to be poor for at least half of their lives from birth through age 17, and more likely to be in poor health.<sup>12</sup>

Infant mortality rates increase as mother's education levels decrease.<sup>3,4</sup> For example, between 2011-2015, Rhode Island mothers with a high school degree or less had a higher infant mortality rate (5.8 per 1,000) than mothers with more advanced educational degrees (4.5 per 1,000 births).<sup>5</sup>

Children of more highly educated parents participate in early learning programs and home literacy activities more frequently, enter school with higher

levels of academic skills, and, on average, earn higher reading and math test scores. Increasing maternal education can improve children's school readiness, language and academic skills, health, employment opportunities, and higher earnings.<sup>6,7,8</sup> Higher levels of parental education can decrease the likelihood that a child will live in poverty.<sup>9</sup> Women with bachelor's degrees in Rhode Island earn more than twice as much as those with less than a high school diploma.<sup>10</sup>

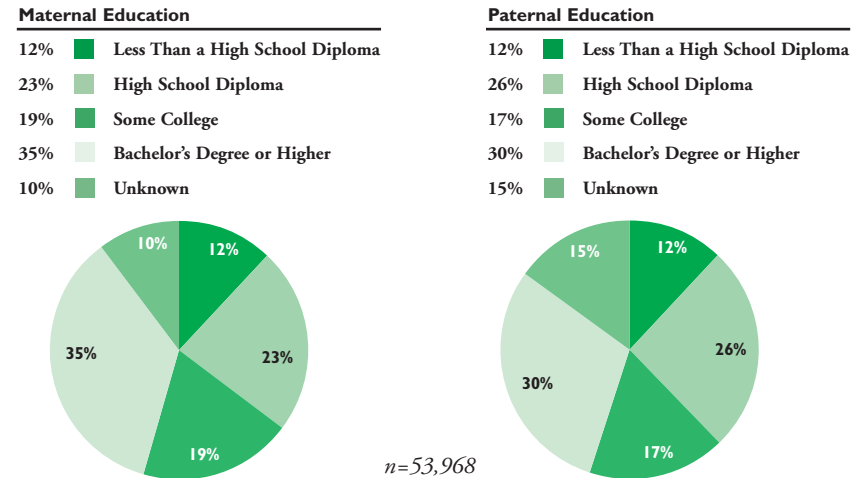
Between 2011 and 2015, 12% of Rhode Island births were to mothers with less than a high school diploma and 35% were to mothers with a bachelor's degree or higher.<sup>11</sup> Nationally, mothers with infants are more educated than ever before. In 2013, 12% of all U.S. births were to mothers with less than a high school diploma, and 63% were to mothers with at least some college education.<sup>12</sup>

## Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma

| CITY/TOWN          | % OF BIRTHS |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Central Falls      | 36%         |
| Pawtucket          | 16%         |
| Providence         | 22%         |
| Woonsocket         | 19%         |
| Four Core Cities   | 21%         |
| Remainder of State | 6%          |
| Rhode Island       | 12%         |

Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Hospital Discharge Database, 2011-2015.

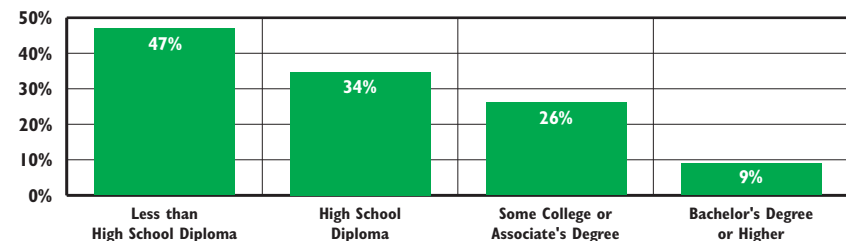
## Births by Parental Education Levels, Rhode Island, 2011-2015



Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, Hospital Discharge Database, 2011-2015.

◆ In Rhode Island between 2011 and 2015, 35% of all infants were born to mothers with a high school diploma or less, and 38% were born to fathers with a high school diploma or less (compared with 37% for mothers and 39% for fathers from 2010-2014).<sup>13</sup>

## Poverty Rates for Families Headed by Single Females by Educational Attainment, Rhode Island, 2011-2015



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015. Table S1702.

◆ The poverty rate among families headed by single females is related to the mother's educational level. In Rhode Island between 2011 and 2015, 47% of families headed by single females with less than a high school diploma were poor, compared with 9% of those with a bachelor's degree or higher.<sup>14</sup>

# Mother's Education Level

Table 4.

**Births by Education Level of Mother, Rhode Island, 2011-2015**

| CITY/TOWN          | TOTAL # OF BIRTHS | BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR ABOVE |     | SOME COLLEGE |     | HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA |     | LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA |     |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-----|--------------|-----|---------------------|-----|-------------------------------|-----|
|                    |                   | N                          | %   | N            | %   | N                   | %   | N                             | %   |
| Barrington         | 513               | 389                        | 76% | 46           | 9%  | 29                  | 6%  | 8                             | 2%  |
| Bristol            | 730               | 357                        | 49% | 163          | 22% | 141                 | 19% | 31                            | 4%  |
| Burrillville       | 648               | 216                        | 33% | 161          | 25% | 172                 | 27% | 40                            | 6%  |
| Central Falls      | 1,575             | 118                        | 7%  | 221          | 14% | 486                 | 31% | 572                           | 36% |
| Charlestown        | 249               | 104                        | 42% | 59           | 24% | 48                  | 19% | 16                            | 6%  |
| Coventry           | 1,448             | 631                        | 44% | 354          | 24% | 289                 | 20% | 78                            | 5%  |
| Cranston           | 3,916             | 1,691                      | 43% | 824          | 21% | 799                 | 20% | 292                           | 7%  |
| Cumberland         | 1,625             | 887                        | 55% | 317          | 20% | 217                 | 13% | 67                            | 4%  |
| East Greenwich     | 573               | 391                        | 68% | 72           | 13% | 60                  | 10% | 11                            | 2%  |
| East Providence    | 2,372             | 989                        | 42% | 456          | 19% | 545                 | 23% | 181                           | 8%  |
| Exeter             | 244               | 124                        | 51% | 40           | 16% | 44                  | 18% | 21                            | 9%  |
| Foster             | 172               | 71                         | 41% | 44           | 26% | 34                  | 20% | 7                             | *   |
| Glocester          | 344               | 157                        | 46% | 78           | 23% | 63                  | 18% | 15                            | 4%  |
| Hopkinton          | 306               | 131                        | 43% | 71           | 23% | 66                  | 22% | 23                            | 8%  |
| Jamestown          | 128               | 89                         | 70% | 10           | 8%  | 8                   | 6%  | 1                             | *   |
| Johnston           | 1,323             | 527                        | 40% | 301          | 23% | 291                 | 22% | 90                            | 7%  |
| Lincoln            | 952               | 465                        | 49% | 208          | 22% | 153                 | 16% | 49                            | 5%  |
| Little Compton     | 77                | 40                         | 52% | 17           | 22% | 10                  | 13% | 2                             | *   |
| Middletown         | 851               | 443                        | 52% | 152          | 18% | 154                 | 18% | 38                            | 4%  |
| Narragansett       | 346               | 198                        | 57% | 63           | 18% | 40                  | 12% | 10                            | 3%  |
| New Shoreham       | 53                | 30                         | 57% | 14           | 26% | 7                   | *   | 1                             | *   |
| Newport            | 1,283             | 582                        | 45% | 161          | 13% | 232                 | 18% | 144                           | 11% |
| North Kingstown    | 1,042             | 579                        | 56% | 150          | 14% | 168                 | 16% | 52                            | 5%  |
| North Providence   | 1,635             | 652                        | 40% | 406          | 25% | 339                 | 21% | 96                            | 6%  |
| North Smithfield   | 420               | 218                        | 52% | 90           | 21% | 65                  | 15% | 18                            | 4%  |
| Pawtucket          | 4,930             | 1,121                      | 23% | 994          | 20% | 1,393               | 28% | 795                           | 16% |
| Portsmouth         | 570               | 329                        | 58% | 101          | 18% | 82                  | 14% | 12                            | 2%  |
| Providence         | 12,724            | 2,765                      | 22% | 2,121        | 17% | 3,392               | 27% | 2,828                         | 22% |
| Richmond           | 319               | 167                        | 52% | 53           | 17% | 57                  | 18% | 12                            | 4%  |
| Scituate           | 359               | 183                        | 51% | 78           | 22% | 63                  | 18% | 10                            | 3%  |
| Smithfield         | 620               | 357                        | 58% | 110          | 18% | 91                  | 15% | 19                            | 3%  |
| South Kingstown    | 874               | 480                        | 55% | 138          | 16% | 136                 | 16% | 40                            | 5%  |
| Tiverton           | 525               | 228                        | 43% | 113          | 22% | 99                  | 19% | 21                            | 4%  |
| Warren             | 454               | 178                        | 39% | 102          | 22% | 102                 | 22% | 37                            | 8%  |
| Warwick            | 3,844             | 1,778                      | 46% | 857          | 22% | 742                 | 19% | 196                           | 5%  |
| West Greenwich     | 231               | 106                        | 46% | 51           | 22% | 47                  | 20% | 9                             | 4%  |
| West Warwick       | 1,754             | 478                        | 27% | 419          | 24% | 516                 | 29% | 210                           | 12% |
| Westerly           | 927               | 336                        | 36% | 206          | 22% | 243                 | 26% | 68                            | 7%  |
| Woonsocket         | 2,908             | 487                        | 17% | 532          | 18% | 989                 | 34% | 554                           | 19% |
| Unknown            | 104               | 57                         | 55% | 19           | 18% | 11                  | 11% | 2                             | 2%  |
| Four Core Cities   | 22,137            | 4,491                      | 20% | 3,868        | 17% | 6,260               | 28% | 4,749                         | 21% |
| Remainder of State | 31,727            | 14,581                     | 46% | 6,485        | 20% | 6,152               | 19% | 1,925                         | 6%  |
| Rhode Island       | 53,968            | 19,129                     | 35% | 10,372       | 19% | 12,423              | 23% | 6,676                         | 12% |

### Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, Hospital Discharge Database, 2011-2015. Data are self-reported and reported by the mother's place of residence, not the place of the infant's birth.

Percentages may not sum to 100% for all communities and the state because the number and percentage of births with unknown parental education levels are not included in this table. Between 2011 and 2015, maternal education levels were unknown for 5,368 births (10%).

\*Rates should not be calculated due to small numbers and the lack of statistical reliability.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

### References

- <sup>1,8</sup> Egerter, S., Braveman, P., Sadegh-Nobari, T., Grossman-Kahn, R., & Dekker, M. (2011). *Issue brief #5: Exploring the social determinants of health: Education and health*. Retrieved January 29, 2016, from www.rwjf.org
- <sup>2</sup> Urban Institute. (2012). *Poor parents' education is key in their children's escape from poverty*. Retrieved January 29, 2016, from www.urban.org
- <sup>3,12</sup> Hernandez, D. J. & Napierala, J. S. (2014). *Mother's education and children's outcomes: How dual-generation programs offer increased opportunities for America's families*. New York, NY: Foundation for Child Development.
- <sup>4</sup> Gakidou, E., Cowling, K., Lozano, R., & Murray, C. J. L. (2010). Increased educational attainment and its effect on child mortality in 175 countries between 1970 and 2009: A systemic analysis [Abstract]. *The Lancet*, 376(9745), p. 959-974.
- <sup>5,11,13</sup> Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, Hospital Discharge Database, 2011-2015.
- <sup>6</sup> Executive Office of the President of the United States. (2015). *The economics of early childhood investments*. Retrieved February 1, 2016, from www.whitehouse.gov
- <sup>7</sup> *Early school readiness*. (2015). Washington, DC: Child Trends Data Bank.

(continued on page 174)

# Racial and Ethnic Diversity

## DEFINITION

*Racial and ethnic diversity* is the percentage of children under age 18 by racial and ethnic categories as defined by the U.S. Census. Racial and ethnic categories are chosen by the head of household or person completing the Census form.

## SIGNIFICANCE

Racial and ethnic diversity has increased in the United States over the last several decades and is projected to rise in the future.<sup>1</sup> Since 2000, all of the growth in the child population in the U.S. has been among groups other than non-Hispanic Whites.<sup>2</sup> In Rhode Island, the non-Hispanic White child population declined by 21% between 2000 and 2010, while the Hispanic child population grew by 31%.<sup>3</sup> In 2015, 52% of all U.S. children were non-Hispanic White.<sup>4</sup> By 2023, more than half of all children in the U.S. will be children of color.<sup>5</sup>

In 2010, 64% of children in Rhode Island were non-Hispanic White, down from 73% in 2000. The number of minority children grew by about 13,000 between 2000 and 2010. The number of non-Hispanic White children dropped by over 37,000 during the same period.<sup>6</sup>

Including Hispanics in each race category, in 2010 in Rhode Island, 72% of children under age 18 were White,

8% were Black or African American, 3% were Asian, 9% of children were identified as Some other race, and 7% as Two or more races. In 2010, 21% of children living in Rhode Island were Hispanic.<sup>7</sup>

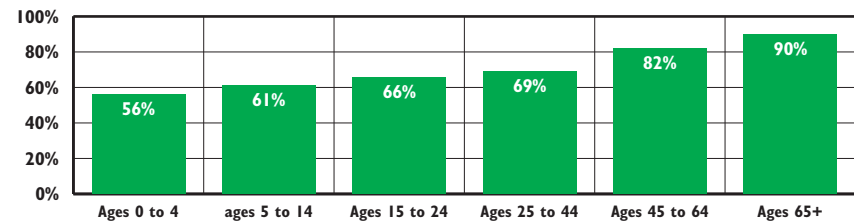
More than two-thirds (67%) of all minority children in Rhode Island live in Rhode Island's four core cities, Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket. Almost three-quarters (74%) of children living in the four core cities are minority children.<sup>8</sup>

Between 2011 and 2015, there were 8,844 foreign-born children living in Rhode Island, 31% of whom were naturalized U.S. citizens.<sup>9</sup> Of Rhode Island's immigrant children, 21% were born in Central or South America, 25% were born in the Caribbean, 25% were born in Asia, 15% were born in Africa, 12% were born in Europe, and 2% were born in North America (Canada, Bermuda, or Mexico).<sup>10</sup>

Between 2011 and 2015, 23% of children between the ages of five and 17 living in Rhode Island spoke a language other than English at home, 95% of whom spoke English well or very well.<sup>11</sup>

Diversity presents both opportunities and challenges to schools, child care providers, health care providers, social service agencies and other community organizations, in terms of adapting current practices to meet the needs of a changing population.<sup>12</sup>

**Percent of Population Identified as Non-Hispanic White by Age, Rhode Island, 2015**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates, 2015.

◆ **Young children in Rhode Island are less likely to be identified as non-Hispanic White than any other age group. Fifty-six percent of Rhode Island children under age five identify as non-Hispanic White, compared with 69% of adults ages 25 to 44 and 90% of people age 65 or over.**<sup>13</sup>

◆ **The median age of Hispanic Rhode Islanders in 2015 was 27 years, compared with 45 years for White Rhode Islanders, 34 years for Native American Rhode Islanders, 32 years for Black Rhode Islanders, 31 years for Asian Rhode Islanders, and 20 years for Rhode Islanders who identify as Two or more races.**<sup>14</sup>

◆ **Ninety-six percent of children in Rhode Island were born in the U.S.<sup>15</sup> Twenty-five percent of children in Rhode Island live in immigrant families (either they are foreign-born or they have at least one parent who is foreign-born), the same rate as the U.S.<sup>16</sup> Nearly all (97%) children in Rhode Island immigrant families have parents who arrived in this country more than five years ago.**<sup>17</sup>

◆ **Nineteen percent of Rhode Island children in non-immigrant families are poor, compared with 20% of children in immigrant families.<sup>18</sup> Two-thirds (69%) of Rhode Island's poor children live in families with U.S.-born parents.**<sup>19</sup>

◆ **Limited English proficiency can be a barrier to employment opportunities, higher earnings, access to health care, and parental engagement with education.<sup>20</sup> Nineteen percent of Rhode Island children in immigrant families live in linguistically-isolated households, meaning no one 14 years or older speaks only English and no one over 14 speaks English "very well."<sup>21</sup>**

Table 5.

**Child Population, by Race and Ethnicity, Rhode Island, 2010**

| CITY/TOWN                 | UNDER AGE 18 BY RACE AND ETHNICITY |                |               |                                         |              |                                                  |                       |                         | 2010<br>POPULATION<br>UNDER AGE 18 |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
|                           | HISPANIC<br>OR LATINO              | WHITE          | BLACK         | AMERICAN<br>INDIAN AND<br>ALASKA NATIVE | ASIAN        | NATIVE HAWAIIAN<br>AND OTHER<br>PACIFIC ISLANDER | SOME<br>OTHER<br>RACE | TWO<br>OR MORE<br>RACES |                                    |
| Barrington                | 154                                | 4,096          | 22            | 8                                       | 163          | 0                                                | 13                    | 141                     | 4,597                              |
| Bristol                   | 130                                | 3,298          | 43            | 4                                       | 40           | 0                                                | 3                     | 105                     | 3,623                              |
| Burrillville              | 115                                | 3,310          | 32            | 2                                       | 12           | 0                                                | 4                     | 101                     | 3,576                              |
| Central Falls             | 3,950                              | 747            | 492           | 17                                      | 20           | 2                                                | 179                   | 237                     | 5,644                              |
| Charlestown               | 46                                 | 1,331          | 8             | 50                                      | 16           | 0                                                | 1                     | 54                      | 1,506                              |
| Coventry                  | 312                                | 7,065          | 64            | 19                                      | 77           | 0                                                | 14                    | 219                     | 7,770                              |
| Cranston                  | 2,966                              | 10,819         | 693           | 48                                      | 1,075        | 15                                               | 73                    | 725                     | 16,414                             |
| Cumberland                | 542                                | 6,348          | 154           | 7                                       | 204          | 3                                                | 31                    | 246                     | 7,535                              |
| East Greenwich            | 106                                | 3,014          | 26            | 5                                       | 174          | 0                                                | 6                     | 105                     | 3,436                              |
| East Providence           | 799                                | 6,619          | 619           | 42                                      | 142          | 1                                                | 281                   | 674                     | 9,177                              |
| Exeter                    | 66                                 | 1,216          | 7             | 7                                       | 10           | 0                                                | 3                     | 25                      | 1,334                              |
| Foster                    | 24                                 | 913            | 14            | 1                                       | 16           | 0                                                | 0                     | 18                      | 986                                |
| Glocester                 | 63                                 | 1,942          | 13            | 2                                       | 24           | 0                                                | 7                     | 47                      | 2,098                              |
| Hopkinton                 | 48                                 | 1,690          | 7             | 15                                      | 16           | 0                                                | 3                     | 66                      | 1,845                              |
| Jamestown                 | 36                                 | 947            | 4             | 1                                       | 8            | 0                                                | 2                     | 45                      | 1,043                              |
| Johnston                  | 640                                | 4,364          | 148           | 1                                       | 135          | 0                                                | 22                    | 170                     | 5,480                              |
| Lincoln                   | 353                                | 3,885          | 114           | 7                                       | 164          | 0                                                | 25                    | 203                     | 4,751                              |
| Little Compton            | 18                                 | 606            | 8             | 1                                       | 6            | 3                                                | 2                     | 10                      | 654                                |
| Middletown                | 295                                | 2,779          | 159           | 10                                      | 124          | 3                                                | 20                    | 262                     | 3,652                              |
| Narragansett              | 91                                 | 1,998          | 30            | 32                                      | 16           | 0                                                | 9                     | 93                      | 2,269                              |
| New Shoreham              | 10                                 | 149            | 1             | 0                                       | 0            | 0                                                | 0                     | 3                       | 163                                |
| Newport                   | 703                                | 2,405          | 337           | 37                                      | 39           | 1                                                | 33                    | 528                     | 4,083                              |
| North Kingstown           | 289                                | 5,598          | 75            | 31                                      | 85           | 2                                                | 6                     | 236                     | 6,322                              |
| North Providence          | 796                                | 3,833          | 397           | 15                                      | 158          | 0                                                | 74                    | 241                     | 5,514                              |
| North Smithfield          | 114                                | 2,241          | 15            | 2                                       | 33           | 0                                                | 4                     | 47                      | 2,456                              |
| Pawtucket                 | 4,785                              | 6,513          | 2,727         | 83                                      | 256          | 7                                                | 1,004                 | 1,200                   | 16,575                             |
| Portsmouth                | 157                                | 3,537          | 53            | 11                                      | 58           | 1                                                | 13                    | 166                     | 3,996                              |
| Providence                | 23,166                             | 6,737          | 6,682         | 375                                     | 2,095        | 15                                               | 494                   | 2,070                   | 41,634                             |
| Richmond                  | 44                                 | 1,729          | 12            | 7                                       | 15           | 0                                                | 0                     | 42                      | 1,849                              |
| Scituate                  | 54                                 | 2,145          | 8             | 4                                       | 29           | 0                                                | 3                     | 29                      | 2,272                              |
| Smithfield                | 117                                | 3,337          | 46            | 6                                       | 41           | 0                                                | 9                     | 69                      | 3,625                              |
| South Kingstown           | 192                                | 4,687          | 80            | 81                                      | 115          | 1                                                | 18                    | 242                     | 5,416                              |
| Tiverton                  | 84                                 | 2,741          | 31            | 3                                       | 34           | 2                                                | 9                     | 94                      | 2,998                              |
| Warren                    | 75                                 | 1,736          | 38            | 10                                      | 11           | 0                                                | 4                     | 66                      | 1,940                              |
| Warwick                   | 1,048                              | 13,365         | 275           | 38                                      | 457          | 2                                                | 39                    | 601                     | 15,825                             |
| West Greenwich            | 60                                 | 1,353          | 15            | 5                                       | 16           | 0                                                | 1                     | 27                      | 1,477                              |
| West Warwick              | 590                                | 4,554          | 142           | 11                                      | 128          | 3                                                | 20                    | 298                     | 5,746                              |
| Westerly                  | 252                                | 4,068          | 68            | 52                                      | 127          | 2                                                | 10                    | 208                     | 4,787                              |
| Woonsocket                | 2,650                              | 5,147          | 676           | 37                                      | 592          | 2                                                | 35                    | 749                     | 9,888                              |
| <i>Four Core Cities</i>   | <i>34,551</i>                      | <i>19,144</i>  | <i>10,577</i> | <i>512</i>                              | <i>2,963</i> | <i>26</i>                                        | <i>1,712</i>          | <i>4,256</i>            | <i>73,741</i>                      |
| <i>Remainder of State</i> | <i>11,389</i>                      | <i>123,718</i> | <i>3,758</i>  | <i>575</i>                              | <i>3,768</i> | <i>39</i>                                        | <i>762</i>            | <i>6,206</i>            | <i>150,215</i>                     |
| <i>Rhode Island</i>       | <i>45,940</i>                      | <i>142,862</i> | <i>14,335</i> | <i>1,087</i>                            | <i>6,731</i> | <i>65</i>                                        | <i>2,474</i>          | <i>10,462</i>           | <i>223,956</i>                     |

**Source of Data for Table/Methodology**

U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010 Redistricting File. All categories are mutually exclusive. If Hispanic was selected as ethnicity, individuals are not included in other racial categories. Likewise, if more than one race was selected, individuals are included in Two or more races and not in their individual race categories.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

**References**

<sup>1</sup> Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics. (2015). *America's children: Key national indicators of well-being, 2015*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

<sup>2</sup> O'Hare, W. (2011). *The changing child population of the United States: Analysis of data from the 2010 Census*. Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation.

<sup>3,6,7,8</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 and 2010 Census.

<sup>4</sup> The Annie E. Casey Foundation KIDS COUNT Data Center. (2015). *Child population by race—2015*. Retrieved January 4, 2017, from [www.datacenter.kidscount.org](http://www.datacenter.kidscount.org)

<sup>5</sup> Frey, W. H. (2011). *America's diverse future: Initial glimpses at the U.S. child population from the 2010 Census*. Washington, DC: The Brookings Institution.

<sup>9</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2011-2015. Table B05003.

<sup>10</sup> Population Reference Bureau analysis of 2011-2015 American Community Survey PUMS data.

<sup>11</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2011-2015. Table B16004.

<sup>12</sup> *HHS Strategic plan: Fiscal years 2014-2018*. (n.d.). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Retrieved January 4, 2017 from [www.hhs.gov](http://www.hhs.gov)

<sup>13,14</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates, 2015.

<sup>15</sup> The Annie E. Casey Foundation KIDS COUNT Data Center. (2015). *Child population by nativity—2015*. Retrieved January 4, 2017, from [datacenter.kidscount.org](http://datacenter.kidscount.org)

(continued on page 174)

# Racial and Ethnic Disparities

## DEFINITION

*Racial and ethnic disparities* is the gap that exists in outcomes for children of different racial and ethnic groups in Rhode Island. Child well-being outcome areas include economic well-being, health, safety, and education.

## SIGNIFICANCE

Rhode Island's children are diverse in racial and ethnic background. In 2010 in Rhode Island, 72% of children under age 18 were White, 8% were Black or African American, 3% were Asian, 1% were Native American, 9% of children were identified as "Some other race," and 7% as "Two or more races." In 2010, 21% of children living in Rhode Island were Hispanic.<sup>1</sup>

Children who live in poverty, especially those who experience deep poverty in early childhood, are more likely to have health, behavioral, educational and social problems.<sup>2,3</sup> Between 2011 and 2015, 20% of all Rhode Island children lived in poverty, 68% of whom were minorities.<sup>4</sup>

Black, Hispanic, and Native American children are more likely than White children to live in neighborhoods that lack the resources needed for them to grow up healthy and successful.<sup>5</sup> In 2010, two-thirds (67%) of Rhode Island's minority children lived in one of the four core cities (those cities with the highest percentage of children living in

poverty). In 2010, more than three-quarters of the children in Providence (84%) and Central Falls (87%) were of minority racial and ethnic backgrounds.<sup>6</sup>

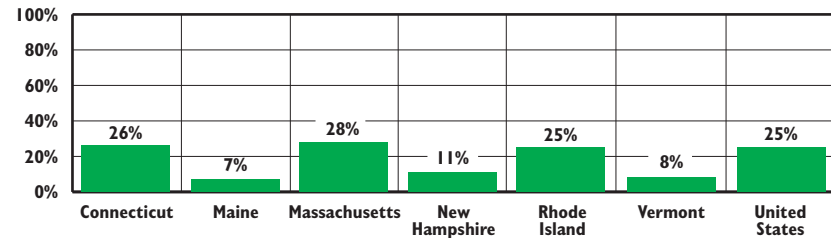
Children living in areas of concentrated poverty, who are more likely to be Black or Hispanic, face challenges above and beyond the burdens of individual poverty. The Providence metropolitan area has the 56th highest rate of concentrated poverty in the U.S.<sup>7</sup> Residential segregation between Whites and Blacks has decreased in the U.S. since the 1970s, but high levels of residential segregation still exist. Hispanics and Asians experience less segregation than Blacks, but the rate of segregation for these groups has been increasing in recent years.<sup>8</sup> The Providence-New Bedford-Fall River metropolitan area was the ninth most segregated metropolitan area in the nation for Hispanics in 2010.<sup>9</sup>

Black and Hispanic families were disproportionately impacted by the economic recession. In the U.S. between 2010 and 2013, White families' net worth rose by 2% while the net worth of Black and Hispanic families fell by 15% and 34%, respectively. The median net worth of White households is more than 10 times greater than Black or Hispanic families. In Rhode Island, Black and Hispanic families have higher rates of unemployment, earn lower wages, and have lower household income than White families.<sup>10,11</sup>

## Residential Segregation and Its Impact on Education

- ◆ In the U.S., Black and Hispanic students are now more segregated from White students than forty years ago.<sup>12</sup> White students generally attend schools that are disproportionately White and low-poverty, while Black and Hispanic students attend schools that are disproportionately minority and high-poverty.<sup>13</sup>
- ◆ Students in high-poverty, high-minority schools 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, lower parental educational levels, and fewer opportunities for enriching after-school and summer activities.<sup>14,15</sup>

## Percentage of Children Living in Immigrant Families, New England and United States, 2015



Source: The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, [datacenter.kidscount.org](http://datacenter.kidscount.org)

- ◆ Children in immigrant families are defined as children under age 18 who are foreign-born or who have at least one foreign-born parent, regardless of citizenship status or year of arrival in the United States. In 2015, 25% (53,000) of Rhode Island children were living in immigrant families.
- ◆ In Rhode Island, the median family income for children in immigrant families (\$54,600) is lower than that of children living in U.S.-born families (\$75,100).<sup>16</sup>

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

|                                            | WHITE    | HISPANIC | BLACK    | ASIAN    | NATIVE AMERICAN | ALL RACES |
|--------------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------|-----------|
| Children in Poverty                        | 15%      | 42%      | 33%      | 16%      | 63%             | 20%       |
| Births to Mothers with <12 Years Education | 8%       | 26%      | 16%      | 8%       | 25%             | 12%       |
| Unemployment Rate                          | 5%       | 9%       | 7%       | NA       | NA              | 5%        |
| Median Family Income                       | \$80,256 | \$32,920 | \$42,542 | \$71,056 | \$26,241        | \$74,045  |
| Homeownership                              | 65%      | 28%      | 31%      | 50%      | 23%             | 60%       |

Sources: *Children in Poverty* data are from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015, Tables B17001, B17020A, B17020B, B17020C, B17020D & B17020I. *Maternal Education* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, Maternal and Child Health Database, 2011-2015. *Unemployment Rate* data are from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2016. *Median Family Income* data are from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015, Tables B19113, B19113A, B19113B, B19113C, B19113D & B19113I. *Homeownership* data are from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015, Tables B25003, B25003A, B25003B, B25003C, B25003D & B25003I. Hispanics also may be included in any of the race categories. All Census data refer only to those individuals who selected one race. NA indicates that the rate was not calculated because the number was too small to calculate a reliable rate.

- ◆ Between 2011 and 2015 in Rhode Island, 20% of all children, 63% of Native American children, 42% of Hispanic children, 33% of Black children, 16% of Asian children, and 15% of White children in Rhode Island lived in families with incomes below the federal poverty threshold.<sup>17</sup>
- ◆ Between 2011 and 2015 in Rhode Island, White households were the most likely to own their homes while Native American, Hispanic, and Black households were the most likely to live in rental units.<sup>18</sup>
- ◆ In 2016 in Rhode Island, the unemployment rate among White workers was 5.1%, compared to 6.9% for Black workers and 8.7% for Hispanic workers. Nationally, the unemployment rate for White workers in 2016 was 4.3%, compared to 8.4% for Black workers and 5.8% for Hispanic workers.<sup>19</sup>
- ◆ Education is essential for economic success. Adults with less than a high school diploma are at particular risk of living in poverty and other negative outcomes.<sup>20</sup> Hispanic, Black, and Native American children in Rhode Island are all more likely than White and Asian children to be born to mothers with less than a high school diploma.<sup>21</sup>

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

|                                              | WHITE | HISPANIC | BLACK | ASIAN | ALL RACES |
|----------------------------------------------|-------|----------|-------|-------|-----------|
| Children Without Health Insurance            | 2.1%  | 7.0%     | 7.7%  | 1.1%  | 3.4%      |
| Women with Delayed Prenatal Care             | 11.4% | 16.3%    | 20.2% | 16.1% | 13.5%     |
| Preterm Births                               | 8.4%  | 9.4%     | 11.1% | 8.4%  | 8.9%      |
| Low Birthweight Infants                      | 6.6%  | 7.7%     | 11.0% | 8.2%  | 7.4%      |
| Infant Mortality (per 1,000 live births)     | 4.4   | 5.8      | 9.5   | 5.9   | 5.9       |
| Births to Teens Ages 15-19 (per 1,000 teens) | 10.5  | 42.6     | 30.2  | 9.6   | 16.8      |

Sources: All data are from the Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, Maternal and Child Health Database, 2011-2015 unless otherwise specified. Information is based on self-reported race and ethnicity. *Children without Health Insurance* data are from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015, Tables B27001, B27001A, B27001B, B27001C, B27001D & B27001I. For birth-related indicators, see respective indicators for Methodology information and prior year comparison limitations. For *Births to Teens* the denominators are the female populations ages 15-19 by race from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010, P12, P14. Hispanics also may be included in any of the race categories.

- ◆ Although progress has been made on many health indicators across racial and ethnic populations, disparities still exist for a number of maternal and infant health outcomes in Rhode Island. Minority women are more likely than White women to receive delayed or no prenatal care and to have preterm births. Black children are more likely to die in infancy than White, Hispanic, or Asian children. Hispanic and Black youth are more likely than White and Asian youth to give birth as teenagers.<sup>22</sup>
- ◆ Black and Hispanic children in Rhode Island are more likely to be hospitalized as a result of asthma than White children.<sup>23</sup> Nationally, Blacks and Native Americans are the most likely of all racial and ethnic groups to have asthma.<sup>24</sup>
- ◆ In 2015, 95% of U.S. children had health insurance coverage, an historic high. Hispanic (92.5%) and Native American (86.6%) children have the lowest rates of coverage.<sup>25</sup>

# Racial and Ethnic Disparities

**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) | 3.7   | 9.3      | 21.7  | 2.3   | 17.4            | 5.5       |
| Children of Incarcerated Parents (per 1,000 children)     | 10.5  | 23.6     | 85.1  | 4.2   | 34.7            | 17.1      |
| Children in Out-of-Home Placement (per 1,000 children)    | 6.1   | 11.8     | 17.7  | 1.2   | 12.9            | 8.6       |

Sources: *Youth at the Training School* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, Rhode Island Training School, Calendar Year 2016. *Children of Incarcerated Parents* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Corrections, September 30, 2016 and reflect the race of the incarcerated parent (includes only the sentenced population). *Children in Out-of-Home Placement* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, RICHIST Database, December 31, 2016. Population denominators used for *Youth at the Training School* are youth ages 13-18 by race from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010, SF1. Population denominators used for *Children of Incarcerated Parents* and *Children in Out-of-Home Placement* are the populations under age 18 by race from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010, SF1.

◆ **Racial and ethnic minority youth continue to be disproportionately represented in the U.S. juvenile justice system. Minority youth (especially Latino and Black youth) are treated more harshly than White youth for the same type and severity of offenses, including detention, processing, and incarceration in juvenile and adult correctional facilities.<sup>26</sup> Rhode Island’s juvenile justice system has some of the widest residential placement disparities between White and minority youth in the nation.<sup>27</sup>**

◆ **Black, Native American, and Hispanic children in Rhode Island are more likely than their White, and Asian peers to be placed out-of-home through the child welfare system.<sup>28</sup> Nationally, minority children experience disparate treatment as they enter the foster care system and while they are in the system. They are more likely than White children under similar circumstances to be placed in foster care, remain in the child welfare system longer, have less contact with child welfare staff, and to have lower reunification rates.<sup>29</sup>**

◆ **Disproportionality in child welfare and juvenile justice systems is in part a reflection of differential poverty rates between minority and White communities. However, while addressing poverty through policies would reduce child maltreatment and juvenile offending rates, policies that work directly to reduce disparities are necessary as well.<sup>30</sup>**

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

|                                                            | WHITE | HISPANIC | BLACK | ASIAN | NATIVE AMERICAN | ALL RACES |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------|-------|-------|-----------------|-----------|
| 3rd Grade Students Meeting Expectations in Reading         | 49%   | 24%      | 26%   | 49%   | 15%             | 40%       |
| 3rd Grade Students Meeting Expectations in Math            | 53%   | 28%      | 29%   | 58%   | 17%             | 44%       |
| Students Attending Schools Identified for Intervention     | 2%    | 32%      | 26%   | 15%   | 19%             | 13%       |
| Four-Year High School Graduation Rates                     | 88%   | 79%      | 81%   | 92%   | 78%             | 85%       |
| % of Adults Over Age 25 With a Bachelor’s Degree or Higher | 34%   | 13%      | 19%   | 44%   | 13%             | 32%       |

Sources: *Third Grade Students Meeting Expectations in Reading and Math* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Education, *Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)*, 2016. *Students Attending Schools Identified for Intervention and Four Year High School Graduation Rates* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Education, 2015-2016 school year. *Adult Educational Attainment* data are from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015, Tables B15003, C15002A, C15002B, C15002C, C15002D & C15002I. All Census data refer only to those individuals who selected one race and Hispanics also may be included in any of the race categories.

◆ **In Rhode Island, Native American, Hispanic, and Black children are less likely to meet expectations in reading and mathematics in third grade than White or Asian children.<sup>31</sup> Native American, Hispanic, and Black adults living in Rhode Island are less likely to have a bachelor’s degree than White or Asian adults.<sup>32</sup>**

◆ **Nationally, Black, Hispanic, and Native American students are more likely than White and Asian students to be disciplined in school. Schools’ disproportionate use of disciplinary techniques that remove children from the classroom, such as out-of-school suspension or expulsion, may contribute to racial and ethnic gaps in school achievement and drop-out rates. In Rhode Island during the 2015-2016 school year, minority students received 54% of all disciplinary actions, although they made up only 40% of the student population.<sup>33</sup>**

◆ **During the 2015-2016 school year, Rhode Island’s Hispanic children were 16 times as likely and Black children 13 times as likely as White children to attend schools identified for intervention.<sup>34</sup>**

## Rhode Island's Hispanic Children and Youth

◆ In 2010, there were 45,940 Hispanic children under age 18 living in Rhode Island, up from 35,326 in 2000. Hispanic children made up 21% of Rhode Island's child population in 2010, compared with 14% in 2000.<sup>35</sup>

◆ In 2010, three-quarters (75%) of the Hispanic children in Rhode Island lived in the four core cities of Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket. While Providence has the largest Hispanic child population overall, Central Falls has the highest percentage of Hispanic children.<sup>36</sup>

### Economics

◆ Between 2011 and 2015, 42% of Rhode Island's Hispanic children lived in poverty.<sup>37</sup> The median family income for Hispanics in Rhode Island was \$32,920, compared to \$74,045 overall in Rhode Island, during that time period.<sup>38</sup>

### Health

◆ In Rhode Island between 2011 and 2015, 16.3% percent of Hispanic babies were born to women who received delayed or no prenatal care, compared with 13.5% of all babies in the state.<sup>39</sup>

◆ Between 2011 and 2015, Hispanic female teens between the ages of 15 and 19 in Rhode Island had a birth rate that was more than two times higher than the overall teen birth rate in Rhode Island (42.6 per 1,000 Hispanic teens ages 15 to 19 compared to 16.8 per 1,000 for all teens).<sup>40,41</sup>

### Education

◆ The four-year high school graduation rate among Hispanic youth in the class of 2016 was 79%, lower than Rhode Island's four-year high school graduation rate of 85%.<sup>42</sup>

◆ The achievement gap between White and Latino students in Rhode Island is among the largest in the U.S.<sup>43</sup>

### References

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- <sup>2</sup> Aber, L., Morris, P., & Raver, C. (2012). Children, families, and poverty: Definitions, trends, emerging science and implications for policy. *Sharing Child and Youth Development Knowledge*, 26(3).
- <sup>3</sup> Ratcliffe, C. & McKernan, S. (2010). *Childhood poverty persistence: Facts and consequences*. Washington, DC: The Urban Institute.
- <sup>4,17,37</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015. Tables B17001, B17020A, B17020B, B17020C, B17020D, B17020H & B17020I.
- <sup>5</sup> *Data snapshot on high poverty communities*. (2012). Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation.
- <sup>6</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Redistricting Data.
- <sup>7</sup> Kneebone, E., Nadeau, C., & Berube, A. (2011). *The re-emergence of concentrated poverty: Metropolitan trends in the 2000s*. Washington, DC: The Brookings Institution.
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- <sup>16</sup> The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, datacenter.kidscount.org
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- <sup>19</sup> *Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population by sex, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and detailed age, 2016 annual averages - Rhode Island and United States*. (2017). U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics.
- <sup>20</sup> Bloom, D. & Haskins, R. (2010). *Helping high school dropouts improve their prospects*. Princeton, NJ: The Future of Children.
- <sup>21,22,39,40,41</sup> Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, Maternal and Child Health Database, 2011-2015.
- <sup>23</sup> Rhode Island Department of Health, Hospital Discharge Database, 2011-2015.
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(continued on page 174)

# Economic Well-Being

# Median Family Income

## DEFINITION

*Median family income* is the dollar amount which divides Rhode Island families' income distribution into two equal groups – half with incomes above the median and half with incomes below the median. The numbers include only families with their “own children” under age 18, defined as never-married children who are related to the family head by birth, marriage, or adoption.

## SIGNIFICANCE

Median family income is a measure of the ability of families to meet the costs of food, clothing, housing, health care, transportation, child care, and higher education. In 2015, the median family income for Rhode Island families with their own children was \$70,108.<sup>1</sup> Rhode Island had the 13th highest median family income nationally and the 4th highest in New England.<sup>2</sup>

Between 2011 and 2015, Rhode Island's median income for families with their own children differed significantly by family type. The median family income for married two-parent families (\$97,785) was almost two and a half times that of male-headed single-parent families (\$39,513) and more than three and a half times that of female-headed single-parent families (\$25,901).<sup>3</sup>

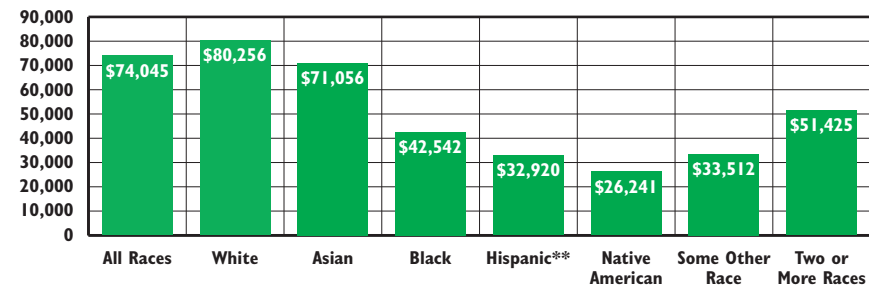
Rhode Island had one of the nation's highest unemployment rates in 2014

(7.7%), but by 2016 the state's unemployment rate had decreased to 5.4%, closer to the U.S. rate of 4.9%. Despite declines in unemployment, Rhode Island continues to have gaps in unemployment rates by race and ethnicity. In 2016, the unemployment rate for White workers was 5.1%, while it was 6.9% for Black workers and 8.7% for Hispanic workers.<sup>4,5</sup>

While the national unemployment rate declined to 5% in 2015, the underemployment rate and percentage of low-wage jobs remains high.<sup>6</sup> More than 23 million people in the U.S. work in low-wage jobs where they are paid \$10.50 per hour or less. Conditions at low-wage jobs, such as fluctuating work hours, lack of paid time off, and strict attendance policies can harm children's development by making it difficult for parents to find and keep affordable high-quality child care and education for their children.<sup>7</sup>

In Rhode Island, the average income of the wealthiest 20% of families increased by 99% (or \$94,170) during the past thirty years, while the average income of the poorest 20% of families increased by 12% (or \$2,480). The wealthiest 20% of families in Rhode Island have average incomes that are 7.5 times larger than the average incomes of the poorest 20% of families. Rhode Island is among the top ten states with the fastest growing income inequality.<sup>8</sup>

**Median Family Income by Race and Ethnicity, Rhode Island, 2011-2015\***



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015. Tables B19113, B19113A, B19113B, B19113C, B19113D, B19113E, B19113G, and B19113I. \*Median Family Income by race and ethnicity includes all families because data for families with “own children” are not available by race and ethnicity. \*\*Hispanics may be in any race category.

- ◆ The median income for White families in Rhode Island is higher than that of Asian families, and much higher than that of Black, Hispanic, and Native American families.<sup>9</sup>
- ◆ Educational attainment is strongly associated with economic well-being. Rhode Islanders who have achieved a Bachelor's degree or higher have nearly double the wages compared to residents who have only completed high school. More than one in three Hispanic and more than one in four Black adults in Rhode Island lack a high school diploma, compared to one in ten White adults.<sup>10</sup>
- ◆ According to the *2016 Rhode Island Standard of Need*, it costs a single-parent family with two young children \$52,932 a year to pay basic living expenses, including housing, food, health care, child care, transportation, and other miscellaneous items. This family would need an annual income of \$63,238 to meet this budget without government subsidies.<sup>11</sup>
- ◆ An adequate minimum wage and income support programs (including RIte Care health insurance, child care subsidies, SNAP/food stamp benefits, and the Earned Income Tax Credit) are critical for helping low-and moderate-income working families in Rhode Island make ends meet.<sup>12</sup>

Table 6. Median Family Income, Rhode Island, 2011-2015

| CITY/TOWN          | 1999 MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 (ADJUSTED TO 2015 DOLLARS*) | 2011-2015 MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 |                                                   |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
|                    |                                                                                               | ESTIMATES WITH HIGH MARGINS OF ERROR**                                 | ESTIMATES WITH LOWER, ACCEPTABLE MARGINS OF ERROR |
| Barrington         | \$126,351                                                                                     |                                                                        | \$146,440                                         |
| Bristol            | \$75,884                                                                                      |                                                                        | \$88,547                                          |
| Burrillville       | \$78,384                                                                                      |                                                                        | \$76,667                                          |
| Central Falls      | \$31,317                                                                                      |                                                                        | \$26,973                                          |
| Charlestown        | \$78,377                                                                                      |                                                                        | \$81,083                                          |
| Coventry           | \$87,306                                                                                      |                                                                        | \$98,491                                          |
| Cranston           | \$80,973                                                                                      |                                                                        | \$81,456                                          |
| Cumberland         | \$97,176                                                                                      |                                                                        | \$91,723                                          |
| East Greenwich     | \$154,470                                                                                     |                                                                        | \$160,139                                         |
| East Providence    | \$69,548                                                                                      |                                                                        | \$54,630                                          |
| Exeter             | \$104,217                                                                                     |                                                                        | \$103,644                                         |
| Foster             | \$90,195                                                                                      | \$113,750                                                              |                                                   |
| Glocester          | \$86,713                                                                                      |                                                                        | \$90,962                                          |
| Hopkinton          | \$84,053                                                                                      |                                                                        | \$85,135                                          |
| Jamestown          | \$113,231                                                                                     | \$97,488                                                               |                                                   |
| Johnston           | \$80,598                                                                                      |                                                                        | \$81,014                                          |
| Lincoln            | \$91,739                                                                                      | \$88,446                                                               |                                                   |
| Little Compton     | \$80,652                                                                                      | \$127,337                                                              |                                                   |
| Middletown         | \$78,691                                                                                      |                                                                        | \$80,161                                          |
| Narragansett       | \$97,117                                                                                      |                                                                        | \$123,625                                         |
| New Shoreham       | \$78,041                                                                                      | \$73,409                                                               |                                                   |
| Newport            | \$61,365                                                                                      | \$48,260                                                               |                                                   |
| North Kingstown    | \$95,033                                                                                      |                                                                        | \$101,128                                         |
| North Providence   | \$71,850                                                                                      |                                                                        | \$70,437                                          |
| North Smithfield   | \$101,125                                                                                     |                                                                        | \$102,688                                         |
| Pawtucket          | \$47,758                                                                                      |                                                                        | \$41,281                                          |
| Portsmouth         | \$95,872                                                                                      |                                                                        | \$109,911                                         |
| Providence         | \$34,928                                                                                      |                                                                        | \$34,164                                          |
| Richmond           | \$90,319                                                                                      |                                                                        | \$114,792                                         |
| Scituate           | \$98,377                                                                                      |                                                                        | \$97,396                                          |
| Smithfield         | \$95,410                                                                                      |                                                                        | \$93,750                                          |
| South Kingstown    | \$97,139                                                                                      |                                                                        | \$104,276                                         |
| Tiverton           | \$90,814                                                                                      |                                                                        | \$84,375                                          |
| Warren             | \$76,188                                                                                      |                                                                        | \$61,406                                          |
| Warwick            | \$81,163                                                                                      |                                                                        | \$82,378                                          |
| West Greenwich     | \$99,821                                                                                      |                                                                        | \$105,417                                         |
| West Warwick       | \$59,523                                                                                      |                                                                        | \$50,690                                          |
| Westerly           | \$73,957                                                                                      |                                                                        | \$63,398                                          |
| Woonsocket         | \$49,043                                                                                      |                                                                        | \$31,923                                          |
| Four Core Cities   | NA                                                                                            |                                                                        | NA                                                |
| Remainder of State | NA                                                                                            |                                                                        | NA                                                |
| Rhode Island       | \$71,941                                                                                      |                                                                        | \$67,606                                          |

### Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Median family income data include only households with children under age 18 who meet the U.S. Census Bureau's definition of a family. The U.S. Census Bureau defines a family as a household that includes a householder and one or more people living in the same household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption.

\*The 1999 median family income data are adjusted to 2015 constant dollars by multiplying 1999 dollar values by 1.4229669 as recommended by the U.S. Census Bureau.

The 2011-2015 data come from a Population Reference Bureau analysis of 2011-2015 American Community Survey data. The American Community Survey is a sample survey, and therefore the median family income is an estimate. The reliability of estimates vary by community. In general, estimates for small communities are not as reliable as estimates for larger communities.

\*\*The Margin of Error around the estimate is greater than or equal to 25 percent of the estimate.

The Margin of Error is a measure of the reliability of the estimate and is provided by the U.S. Census Bureau. The Margin of Error means that there is a 90 percent chance that the true value is no less than the estimate minus the Margin of Error and no more than the estimate plus the Margin of Error. See the Methodology Section for Margins of Errors for all communities.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

NA: Median family income cannot be calculated for combinations of cities and towns (i.e., Four Core Cities and Remainder of State).

### References

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- <sup>3</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2011-2015. Table B19126.
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- <sup>11,12</sup> *The 2016 Rhode Island Standard of Need.* (2016). Providence, RI: The Economic Progress Institute.

# Cost of Housing

## DEFINITION

*Cost of housing* is the percentage of income needed by a very low-income family to cover the average cost of rent.<sup>1</sup> The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) defines a very low-income family as a family with an income less than 50% of the Area Median Income. A cost burden exists when more than 30% of a family's monthly income is spent on housing.

## SIGNIFICANCE

Inadequate, costly, or crowded housing has a negative impact on children's health, safety, and emotional well-being and on a family's ability to meet a child's basic needs. Children who live in families with cost burdens may live in low-quality and overcrowded housing and move frequently, all of which have been linked to lower educational achievement.<sup>2,3</sup>

The growth in low- and middle-income families' housing expenses has outpaced income growth, both nationally and in Rhode Island.<sup>4,5</sup> In 2014, 23% of Rhode Island's 156,122 working households spent more than half of their income on housing costs, making Rhode Island the state with the highest cost burden in New England.<sup>6</sup>

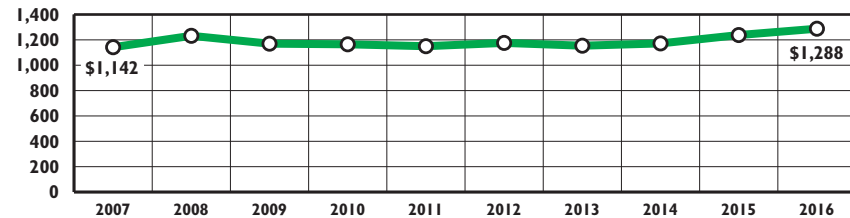
In 2016, a worker would have to earn \$24.77 an hour and work 40 hours a week year-round to be able to afford the average rent in Rhode Island

without a cost burden. This hourly wage is more than two and a half times the 2016 minimum wage of \$9.60 per hour.<sup>7</sup> In 2016, Rhode Island required the 18th highest hourly wage to afford the rent for a two-bedroom home of any state.<sup>8</sup>

In 2016, the Area Median Income for families in Rhode Island was \$73,931.<sup>9</sup> Families with this income can afford to purchase a median-priced, single-family home in 15 of the 39 communities in the state.<sup>10</sup> In 2015, the median cost of a single-family home in Rhode Island was \$225,000, 18% higher than 2012, but still 36% lower than the 2005 peak.<sup>11,12</sup>

Federally-funded Section 8 Housing Choice rental vouchers can help low-income individuals and families afford the cost of housing; however there are not enough vouchers to meet the need. Long waiting periods are common and housing authorities may close waiting lists when there are more families on the list than can be helped in the near future.<sup>13</sup> Rhode Island's FY 2015 budget increased the real estate conveyance tax and created a dedicated funding stream for housing subsidies as well as homelessness prevention, housing retention, and lead abatement.<sup>14</sup> In 2016, Rhode Island voters approved a \$50 million housing bond for affordable housing development and urban revitalization.<sup>15</sup>

Average Rent, Two-Bedroom Apartment, Rhode Island, 2007-2016



Source: Rhode Island Housing, Annual Rent Surveys, 2007-2016. Rents include adjustments for the cost of heat, cooking fuel, electricity, and hot water. Adjustments for utilities for each year vary according to HUD annual utility allowances. The HUD utility allowance decreased in 2013, so average rents which include this allowance also decreased.

◆ Between 2007 and 2016, the average cost of rent in Rhode Island remained fairly stable, increasing from \$1,142 to \$1,288.<sup>16</sup> The percentage of renters in Rhode Island who spent 30% or more of their household income on rent increased slightly from 47% in 2007 to 48% in 2015. The percentage of homeowners who had a cost burden due to their mortgages decreased between 2007 and 2015, from 42% to 32%.<sup>17,18</sup>

## Cost of Heating and Other Utilities

◆ High energy costs make housing even less affordable for low-income families. Research shows that children in households experiencing energy shutoffs also are at risk of hunger and problems with health and development.<sup>19</sup>

◆ Rhode Island state law prohibits utility shutoffs for protected customers (such as the unemployed and low-income families with children under age two) and all customers facing financial hardships during the moratorium period from November 1 through April 15.<sup>20</sup>

◆ The federally-funded Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides financial assistance to Rhode Island's low-income households to meet home heating and energy costs.<sup>21</sup> In FY 2014, 31,088 low-income Rhode Island families received heating assistance through LIHEAP.<sup>22</sup> In 2016, Rhode Island created a LIHEAP Enhancement Plan that established per-payment forgiveness of utility debt and allows previously homeless families to obtain a crisis grant to cover the down payment required to participate in this program.<sup>23</sup>

Table 7.

## Cost of Housing for Very Low-Income Families, Rhode Island, 2016

| CITY/TOWN          | FAMILY INCOME                      |                             | HOMEOWNERSHIP COSTS             |                                                             | RENTAL COSTS                     |                                                        |                                                 |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
|                    | 2016 POVERTY LEVEL FAMILY OF THREE | 2016 VERY LOW-INCOME FAMILY | TYPICAL MONTHLY HOUSING PAYMENT | % INCOME NEEDED FOR HOUSING PAYMENT, VERY LOW-INCOME FAMILY | AVERAGE RENT 2-BEDROOM APARTMENT | % INCOME NEEDED FOR RENT POVERTY LEVEL FAMILY OF THREE | % INCOME NEEDED FOR RENT VERY LOW-INCOME FAMILY |
| Barrington         | \$20,160                           | \$32,800                    | \$2,980                         | 109%                                                        | \$1,327                          | 79%                                                    | 49%                                             |
| Bristol            | \$20,160                           | \$32,800                    | \$1,995                         | 73%                                                         | \$1,327                          | 79%                                                    | 49%                                             |
| Burrillville       | \$20,160                           | \$32,800                    | \$1,527                         | 56%                                                         | \$1,258                          | 75%                                                    | 46%                                             |
| Central Falls      | \$20,160                           | \$32,800                    | \$959                           | 35%                                                         | \$983                            | 59%                                                    | 36%                                             |
| Charlestown        | \$20,160                           | \$32,800                    | \$2,154                         | 79%                                                         | \$1,258                          | 75%                                                    | 46%                                             |
| Coventry           | \$20,160                           | \$32,800                    | \$1,558                         | 57%                                                         | \$1,327                          | 79%                                                    | 49%                                             |
| Cranston           | \$20,160                           | \$32,800                    | \$1,486                         | 54%                                                         | \$1,246                          | 74%                                                    | 46%                                             |
| Cumberland         | \$20,160                           | \$32,800                    | \$1,923                         | 70%                                                         | \$1,292                          | 77%                                                    | 47%                                             |
| East Greenwich     | \$20,160                           | \$32,800                    | \$3,086                         | 113%                                                        | \$1,538                          | 92%                                                    | 56%                                             |
| East Providence    | \$20,160                           | \$32,800                    | \$1,417                         | 52%                                                         | \$1,225                          | 73%                                                    | 45%                                             |
| Exeter*            | \$20,160                           | \$32,800                    | \$1,942                         | 71%                                                         | \$972                            | 58%                                                    | 36%                                             |
| Foster*            | \$20,160                           | \$32,800                    | \$1,835                         | 67%                                                         | \$972                            | 58%                                                    | 36%                                             |
| Glocester*         | \$20,160                           | \$32,800                    | \$1,743                         | 64%                                                         | \$972                            | 58%                                                    | 36%                                             |
| Hopkinton*         | \$20,160                           | \$35,550                    | \$1,657                         | 56%                                                         | \$1,069                          | 64%                                                    | 36%                                             |
| Jamestown          | \$20,160                           | \$32,800                    | \$3,616                         | 132%                                                        | \$1,651                          | 98%                                                    | 60%                                             |
| Johnston           | \$20,160                           | \$32,800                    | \$1,562                         | 57%                                                         | \$1,255                          | 75%                                                    | 46%                                             |
| Lincoln            | \$20,160                           | \$32,800                    | \$2,037                         | 75%                                                         | \$1,282                          | 76%                                                    | 47%                                             |
| Little Compton*    | \$20,160                           | \$32,800                    | \$2,999                         | 110%                                                        | \$972                            | 58%                                                    | 36%                                             |
| Middletown         | \$20,160                           | \$40,550                    | \$2,479                         | 73%                                                         | \$1,407                          | 84%                                                    | 42%                                             |
| Narragansett       | \$20,160                           | \$32,800                    | \$2,428                         | 89%                                                         | \$1,289                          | 77%                                                    | 47%                                             |
| New Shoreham*      | \$20,160                           | \$35,550                    | \$7,016                         | 237%                                                        | \$1,069                          | 64%                                                    | 36%                                             |
| Newport            | \$20,160                           | \$40,550                    | \$2,619                         | 78%                                                         | \$1,508                          | 90%                                                    | 45%                                             |
| North Kingstown    | \$20,160                           | \$32,800                    | \$2,320                         | 85%                                                         | \$1,406                          | 84%                                                    | 51%                                             |
| North Providence   | \$20,160                           | \$32,800                    | \$1,497                         | 55%                                                         | \$1,273                          | 76%                                                    | 47%                                             |
| North Smithfield   | \$20,160                           | \$32,800                    | \$1,700                         | 62%                                                         | \$1,274                          | 76%                                                    | 47%                                             |
| Pawtucket          | \$20,160                           | \$32,800                    | \$1,211                         | 44%                                                         | \$1,174                          | 70%                                                    | 43%                                             |
| Portsmouth         | \$20,160                           | \$40,550                    | \$2,322                         | 69%                                                         | \$1,714                          | 102%                                                   | 51%                                             |
| Providence         | \$20,160                           | \$32,800                    | \$988                           | 36%                                                         | \$1,271                          | 76%                                                    | 47%                                             |
| Richmond*          | \$20,160                           | \$32,800                    | \$1,775                         | 65%                                                         | \$972                            | 58%                                                    | 36%                                             |
| Scituate           | \$20,160                           | \$32,800                    | \$1,913                         | 70%                                                         | \$1,506                          | 90%                                                    | 55%                                             |
| Smithfield*        | \$20,160                           | \$32,800                    | \$1,851                         | 68%                                                         | \$972                            | 58%                                                    | 36%                                             |
| South Kingstown    | \$20,160                           | \$32,800                    | \$2,115                         | 77%                                                         | \$1,344                          | 80%                                                    | 49%                                             |
| Tiverton           | \$20,160                           | \$32,800                    | \$1,645                         | 60%                                                         | \$1,432                          | 85%                                                    | 52%                                             |
| Warren             | \$20,160                           | \$32,800                    | \$1,804                         | 66%                                                         | \$1,281                          | 76%                                                    | 47%                                             |
| Warwick            | \$20,160                           | \$32,800                    | \$1,339                         | 49%                                                         | \$1,486                          | 88%                                                    | 54%                                             |
| West Greenwich*    | \$20,160                           | \$32,800                    | \$2,064                         | 76%                                                         | \$972                            | 58%                                                    | 36%                                             |
| West Warwick       | \$20,160                           | \$32,800                    | \$1,278                         | 47%                                                         | \$1,289                          | 77%                                                    | 47%                                             |
| Westerly           | \$20,160                           | \$35,550                    | \$1,863                         | 63%                                                         | \$1,315                          | 78%                                                    | 44%                                             |
| Woonsocket         | \$20,160                           | \$32,800                    | \$1,233                         | 45%                                                         | \$1,106                          | 66%                                                    | 40%                                             |
| Four Core Cities   | \$20,160                           | \$32,800                    | \$1,098                         | 40%                                                         | \$1,211                          | 72%                                                    | 44%                                             |
| Remainder of State | \$20,160                           | \$33,700                    | \$2,158                         | 77%                                                         | \$1,338                          | 80%                                                    | 48%                                             |
| Rhode Island       | \$20,160                           | \$33,608                    | \$1,632                         | 58%                                                         | \$1,288                          | 77%                                                    | 46%                                             |

### Source of Data for Table/Methodology

2016 poverty level for a family of three as reported in: *Federal Register*, 81(15), January 25, 2016, pages 4036-4037.

A very low-income family as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is a three-person family with income 50% of the Area Median Income and is calculated separately for each of the three metropolitan areas comprising Rhode Island. Reported by Rhode Island Housing, (2016). *2016 Rhode Island income limits for low- and moderate-income households*. Retrieved January 27, 2017, from www.rhodeislandhousing.org

Data on typical monthly housing payments are from HousingWorks RI's *2016 Housing Fact Book*. They are based on the median selling price of a single-family home using year-end 2015 data and calculated based on a 30-year mortgage at a 3.85% interest rate with a 3.5% down payment. The statewide typical monthly housing payment comes from HousingWorks RI, and core city and remainder of state are calculated by Rhode Island KIDS COUNT using unweighted community data.

Rhode Island Housing, *Rhode Island Rent Survey*, 2016. Average rents are based on a survey of rents in Rhode Island between January and December, 2016. 2016 rents are adjusted using HUD's utility allowance of \$238 for a two-bedroom apartment (includes heat, cooking fuel, electricity, and hot water) unless the listing stated that utilities were included in the rent, in which case the adjustment was not made.

\*Rhode Island Housing 2016 *Rent Survey* data are not available. Average rent used for these communities is the HUD 2016 Fair Market Rent for the metropolitan area as reported by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The average rent calculated for the state as a whole, for the remainder of state, and four core cities do not include communities for which data from the *Rent Survey* were not available.

Statewide average rent is calculated by taking an average of all listings statewide. Rent averages for the four core cities and the remainder of state are calculated using weighted community data from RI Housing.

\*\*Typical monthly housing payment for Providence does not include the East Side and therefore cannot be compared to data reported for Providence in Factbooks prior to 2013.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

References are on page 175.

# Homeless Children

## DEFINITION

*Homeless children* is the number of children under age 18 who stayed at homeless shelters, domestic violence shelters or transitional housing facilities in Rhode Island with their families. This number does not include homeless and runaway youth who are unaccompanied by their families.

## SIGNIFICANCE

In the United States, 2.5 million children (one in 30) are homeless each year.<sup>1</sup> Families can become homeless due to lack of affordable housing, unemployment, low-paying jobs, extreme poverty and decreasing government supports. Other causes include domestic violence, mental illness, substance abuse, and frayed social support networks.<sup>2,3,4</sup>

Compared with their peers, homeless children are more likely to become ill (particularly with illnesses such as stomach problems, ear infections, and asthma), develop mental health issues (such as anxiety, depression, and withdrawal), experience significant educational disruption, and exhibit delinquent or aggressive behaviors. Homeless children go hungry at twice the rate of other children.<sup>5</sup>

Homeless children are at a higher risk of abuse and exposure to violence. This trauma can lead to an increase in developmental delays and emotional distress and a decrease in academic

achievement.<sup>6,7</sup> When homeless children are exposed to multiple traumatic events, they may have increased levels of anxiety, poor impulse control, and difficulty developing trusting relationships.<sup>8,9</sup>

Families who have experienced homelessness have higher rates of family separation than other low-income families, with children separated from their parents due to shelter rules, state intervention, and/or parents' desires to protect their children from homelessness. Homeless children are more likely to have been placed in foster care (12%) than other children (1%). Homelessness also can be a barrier to reunification; it is estimated that more than 30% of children in foster care in the U.S. could return home if their parents had adequate housing.<sup>10</sup>

In 2016, 515 families with 966 children stayed at an emergency homeless shelter, domestic violence shelter, or transitional housing facility in Rhode Island. Children made up 23% of the people who used emergency homeless shelters, domestic violence shelters, and transitional housing in 2016. Half (48%) of these children were under age six, not yet school age.<sup>11</sup> Other families are on the state's family shelter waiting list, awaiting placement when a slot opens up.

In 2016, United Way 211 received 112,563 calls from individuals and families seeking housing or shelter and 3,644 related to foreclosure prevention.<sup>12</sup>

## Rhode Island's Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness

◆ In 2012, Rhode Island released a statewide strategic plan to transform the provision of services to decrease the number of homeless individuals and families. Rhode Island's plan (*Opening Doors Rhode Island*) is based on a comparable federal initiative called *Opening Doors, the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*.<sup>13</sup>

◆ *Built for Zero* is a national campaign focused on helping communities across the U.S. end chronic and veteran homelessness. Rhode Island has expanded this goal to also target family homelessness.<sup>14,15,16</sup>

## Supporting Homeless Children in Schools

◆ Family residential instability and homelessness contribute to poor educational outcomes for children. Homeless children are more likely to change schools, be absent from school, and have lower reading and math scores than children who have housing.<sup>17</sup>

◆ The federal *McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (McKinney-Vento Act)* requires that states identify homeless children, allow them to enroll in school even if they lack required documents, allow them to stay in their "home school," provide transportation when needed, and offer services to help them succeed in school.<sup>18</sup>

◆ The *McKinney-Vento Act* defines a child as homeless if he or she does not have a "fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence."<sup>19</sup> During the 2015-2016 school year, Rhode Island public school personnel identified 1,057 children as homeless. Of these children, 64% lived with other families ("doubled up"), 25% lived in shelters, 10% lived in hotels or motels, and 1% were unsheltered.<sup>20</sup>

◆ Schools can support homeless families by identifying children and youth experiencing homelessness, ensuring that families and staff are aware of students' rights under the *McKinney-Vento Act*, developing relationships with community agencies serving homeless families, and helping homeless children get clothing, school supplies, tutoring, and referrals to other services they may need to succeed in school.<sup>21</sup> The federal *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*, which re-authorized *McKinney-Vento* in 2015, strengthens existing provisions for homeless students, guarantees school stability for students starting in preschool, and requires schools to report on student achievement and graduation rates for homeless students.<sup>22</sup>

Table 8. Homeless Children Identified by Public Schools, Rhode Island, 2015-2016 School Year

| SCHOOL DISTRICT        | TOTAL ENROLLMENT | # OF CHILDREN IDENTIFIED AS HOMELESS BY PUBLIC SCHOOL PERSONNEL |
|------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Barrington             | 3,355            | 0                                                               |
| Bristol Warren         | 3,218            | 17                                                              |
| Burrillville           | 2,341            | 35                                                              |
| Central Falls          | 2,589            | 57                                                              |
| Chariho                | 3,270            | 25                                                              |
| Coventry               | 4,713            | 16                                                              |
| Cranston               | 10,415           | 25                                                              |
| Cumberland             | 4,568            | *                                                               |
| East Greenwich         | 2,504            | 0                                                               |
| East Providence        | 5,238            | 19                                                              |
| Exeter-West Greenwich  | 1,654            | *                                                               |
| Foster                 | 265              | 0                                                               |
| Foster-Glocester       | 1,147            | 10                                                              |
| Glocester              | 547              | *                                                               |
| Jamestown              | 488              | 0                                                               |
| Johnston               | 3,190            | *                                                               |
| Lincoln                | 3,002            | 10                                                              |
| Little Compton         | 246              | 0                                                               |
| Middletown             | 2,191            | 117                                                             |
| Narragansett           | 1,326            | 11                                                              |
| New Shoreham           | 120              | 0                                                               |
| Newport                | 2,198            | 71                                                              |
| North Kingstown        | 4,047            | 48                                                              |
| North Providence       | 3,493            | 33                                                              |
| North Smithfield       | 1,707            | *                                                               |
| Pawtucket              | 8,984            | 45                                                              |
| Portsmouth             | 2,464            | *                                                               |
| Providence             | 23,983           | 146                                                             |
| Scituate               | 1,305            | 0                                                               |
| Smithfield             | 2,384            | 51                                                              |
| South Kingstown        | 3,111            | *                                                               |
| Tiverton               | 1,841            | 0                                                               |
| Warwick                | 9,124            | 104                                                             |
| West Warwick           | 3,474            | 22                                                              |
| Westerly               | 2,865            | 51                                                              |
| Woonsocket             | 5,863            | 78                                                              |
| Charter Schools        | 7,024            | 33                                                              |
| State-Operated Schools | 1,746            | *                                                               |
| UCAP                   | 142              | 0                                                               |
| Four Core Cities       | 41,419           | 326                                                             |
| Remainder of State     | 91,811           | 692                                                             |
| Rhode Island           | 142,142          | 1,057                                                           |

### Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Rhode Island Department of Education, Public School Enrollment in grades preschool to 12 on October 1, 2015.

Number of children identified as homeless by public school personnel includes children in preschool through grade 12 who are identified by public school personnel as meeting the *McKinney-Vento* definition of homelessness, which includes any child who does not have a "fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence."

Charter schools reporting include Blackstone Academy, Blackstone Valley Prep Mayoral Academy, Paul Cuffee Charter School, Sheila C. "Skip" Nowell Leadership Academy, Southside Charter School, and Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts. State-operated schools reporting include the Metropolitan Regional Career & Technical Center and the Rhode Island School for the Deaf.

The Newport, North Kingstown, Warwick, and Woonsocket school districts received grants that provided additional resources to identify and serve homeless students.

\*Fewer than 10 students are in this category. Actual numbers are not shown to protect student confidentiality. These students are still counted in district totals and in the four core cities, remainder of the state, and state totals.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

### References

- <sup>14</sup> Bassuk, E. L., DeCandia, C. J., Beach, C. A., & Berman, F. (2014). *America's youngest outcasts: A report card on child homelessness*. Needham, MA: The National Center on Family Homelessness.
- <sup>2,5,10</sup> *The characteristics and needs of families experiencing homelessness*. (2011). Needham, MA: The National Center on Family Homelessness.
- <sup>3</sup> Aratani, Y. (2009). *Homeless children and youth: Causes and consequences*. New York, NY: Columbia University, Mailman School of Public Health, National Center for Children in Poverty.
- <sup>6</sup> American Academy of Pediatrics. (2013). Providing care for children and adolescents facing homelessness and housing insecurity. *Pediatrics*, 131(6), 1206-1210.

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# Secure Parental Employment

## DEFINITION

*Secure parental employment* is the percentage of children living with at least one parent who has full-time, year-round employment.

## SIGNIFICANCE

Secure parental employment increases family income and reduces poverty. Children with parents who have steady employment are more likely to have access to health care. Secure parental employment improves family functioning by reducing the stress brought on by unemployment and underemployment of parents.<sup>1</sup> Among poor families, children with working parents are more engaged academically and less likely to repeat a grade or be suspended or expelled from school than children with non-working parents.<sup>2</sup>

In December 2016, Rhode Island's unemployment rate was 5.0%, higher than the U.S. unemployment rate of 4.7%, and the 14th highest in the nation. However, it was considerably lower than at the height of Rhode Island's recession in December 2009, when the unemployment rate was 11.2%.<sup>3,4,5</sup>

In 2015, Rhode Island and the U.S. had the same rate of children with at least one unemployed parent (6%).<sup>6</sup> Children with unemployed parents are at increased risk for homelessness, child abuse or neglect, and failure to finish high school or college.<sup>7,8</sup>

Between 2011 and 2015, 73% of children under age six and 77% of children ages six to 17 in Rhode Island had all parents in the labor force. In comparison, nationally, 65% of children under age six and 71% of children ages six to 17 had all parents in the labor force.<sup>9</sup>

Even when families have adults with secure parental employment, low wages cause many families to remain in poverty. Nationally, nearly one in three (32%) working families are low income (10.6 million), with 24 million children belonging to low-income working families.<sup>10</sup> In the workforce, low-income individuals tend to have few opportunities for development, limited benefits, and an overall lack of economic security. In addition, despite gaining experience and seniority, many low-income workers never move out of low-wage jobs.<sup>11</sup>

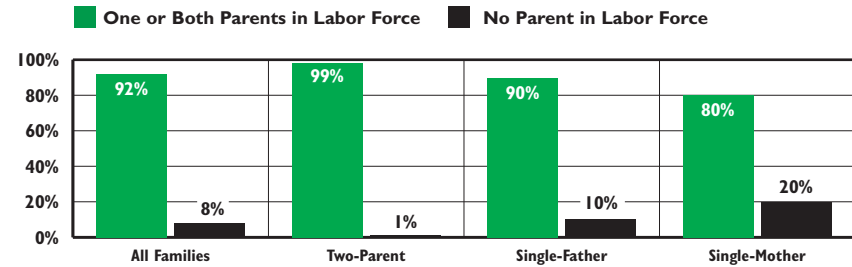
| Children Living in Families Where No Parent Has Full-Time, Year-Round Employment |      |      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|------|
|                                                                                  | 2010 | 2015 |
| RI                                                                               | 34%  | 30%  |
| US                                                                               | 33%  | 29%  |
| National Rank*                                                                   |      | 30th |
| New England Rank**                                                               |      | 5th  |

\*1st is best; 50th is worst

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

Source: The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, [datacenter.kidscount.org](http://datacenter.kidscount.org)

## Employment Status of Parents by Family Type, Rhode Island, 2011-2015



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015. Table B23008.

◆ The majority of children living in Rhode Island between 2011 and 2015 had one or both parents in the labor force. Children living with a single parent were 15 times more likely than children living in a two-parent family to have no parents in the labor force. Of children in two-parent families, 72% had both parents in the labor force.<sup>12</sup>

◆ Between 2011 and 2015, there were 16,367 Rhode Island children living in families with no parent in the labor force. Children living in families with a single parent represented 89% (14,547) of families with no employed parents.<sup>13</sup>

◆ Between 2011 and 2015, 15% (3,903) of Rhode Island families with incomes below the federal poverty threshold had at least one adult with full-time, year-round employment, and 40% of low-income Rhode Island families had at least one adult working part-time.<sup>14</sup>

◆ According to the 2016 *Rhode Island Standard of Need*, 72% of Rhode Island single parent families and 26% of two-parent families with two or more children earn less than the income required to meet their basic needs without public benefits such as SNAP/food stamps, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), child care subsidies, and health insurance.<sup>15</sup>

## Barriers to Secure Employment for Low-Income Families

- ◆ There are many barriers to employment for those leaving welfare for work. Research shows that welfare leavers who return to welfare after working are much more likely to be in poor health, to have low levels of education, and to have young children than those who remain employed.<sup>16</sup>
- ◆ Poor health or a disability may make it difficult for parents to secure or sustain employment. One national study found that 13% of low-income working mothers had some type of disability and 6% had a severe disability. It also found that 16% of low-income working mothers had a child with a disability and that 9% had a child with a severe disability. Higher-income mothers reported lower disability rates for themselves and their children.<sup>17</sup>
- ◆ Low-income workers are less likely to have benefits, such as paid time off and flexible work schedules, that would allow them to address the needs of sick children.<sup>18</sup> Approximately 60% of the entire U.S. workforce qualifies for the federal *Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)*, but many who are eligible cannot afford to take it.<sup>19</sup> In 2013, Rhode Island passed legislation that created the Temporary Caregivers Insurance (TCI) Program, which provides up to four weeks of benefits for workers who need to care for a seriously ill family member or to bond with a newborn, foster, or adopted child.<sup>20</sup> Rhode Island is one of three states that offer paid family leave.<sup>21</sup>
- ◆ Limited education also can be a barrier to sustained employment. Between 2011 and 2015 in Rhode Island, adults without a high school diploma were nearly twice as likely to be unemployed as those without a Bachelor's degree.<sup>22</sup>
- ◆ Having access to work supports, such as health insurance, SNAP/food stamp benefits, and child care subsidies, can facilitate steady employment over time. Researchers have found links between these programs and positive employment outcomes for parents such as work stability and earnings.<sup>23</sup>

### References

<sup>1</sup> Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics. (2016). *America's children: Key national indicators of well-being, 2016*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

<sup>27</sup> Isaacs, J. (2013). *Unemployment from a child's perspective*. Washington, DC: Urban Institute and First Focus.

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## Secure Employment and Child Care

- ◆ Research shows a link between adequate child care availability and sustained maternal labor force participation. Studies find that mothers report that the lack of reliable and dependable child care arrangements affected their ability to remain employed.<sup>24</sup>
- ◆ In 2015 in Rhode Island, a single mother earning the state median income for a single-mother family (\$25,798) would have to spend almost half (49.9%) of her income to pay for child care for an infant in center-based care.<sup>25</sup>
- ◆ In Rhode Island, child care assistance is available to all income-eligible working families. During the 2007 legislative session, eligibility for child care assistance was rolled back from 225% to 180% of the federal poverty level (\$36,756 for a family of three in 2017).<sup>26,27</sup>

## Rhode Island Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

- ◆ State and federal Earned Income Tax Credits (EITCs) provide tax reductions and wage supplements for low- and moderate-income working families. EITCs reduce child poverty, decrease taxes, and increase work incentives for families struggling to make ends meet. The federal EITC is the nation's most effective antipoverty program for working families. It lifted 6.5 million people, over half of them children, out of poverty in 2015.<sup>28,29</sup>
- ◆ The EITC's benefits extend well beyond the time families receive the credit. EITC recipients are more likely to work and earn higher wages, and their children do better in school, are more likely to attend college, and earn more as adults.<sup>30</sup>
- ◆ State EITCs can supplement the federal EITC to further support working families. In 2016, the Rhode Island General Assembly passed legislation that increased the state's EITC from 12.5% to 15% of the federal EITC. In 2016, approximately 84,000 Rhode Island working families and individuals received a total of \$190 million in EITC tax credits for tax year 2015.<sup>31</sup>

# Paid Family Leave

## DEFINITION

*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).

## SIGNIFICANCE

Rhode Island's Temporary Caregiver Insurance (TCI) program, established in 2014, provides up to four weeks of wage replacement benefits to eligible workers who need to take time off from work to bond with a newborn, adopted or foster child, or to care for a seriously ill family member. The TCI program is financed entirely by employee contributions.<sup>1</sup>

Almost all advanced, industrialized nations guarantee paid leave for new mothers and many include new fathers. In many European countries, families receive at least six months of paid leave to care for a new baby.<sup>2</sup> The U.S. requires employers with 50 or more workers to offer 12 weeks of leave for workers to care for a new child or to care for a seriously ill family member; however the time off can be unpaid.<sup>3</sup> Rhode Island's *1987 Parental and Family Medical Leave Act* requires a 13-week leave, but does not require that the leave be paid.<sup>4</sup>

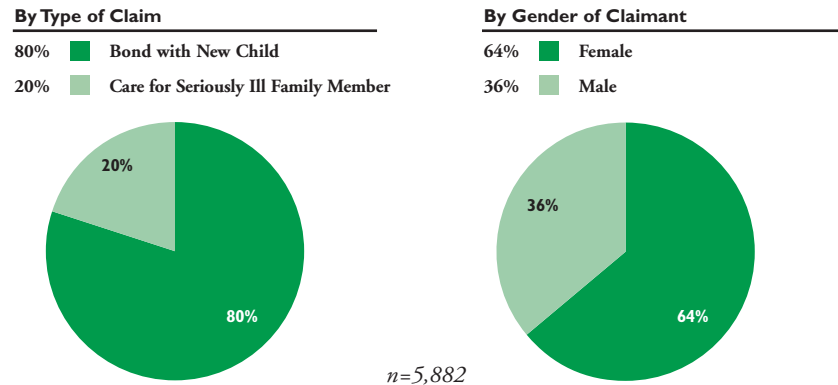
Although some workers in the U.S. have access to paid leave through their employers (estimated at 11% of private sector workers and 17% of public sector

workers), the majority do not. High-wage workers are much more likely to have access to paid family leave than low-wage workers. More than three in four employees in the U.S. report not being able to take family leave when needed because it was unpaid.<sup>5</sup>

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.<sup>6</sup> Taking time off from work to care for a new child reduces infant mortality rates and child abuse, improves breastfeeding rates and duration, and increases preventive medical care and immunizations. Mothers who take at least 12 weeks off from work after the birth of a child are less likely to experience depression, which can improve the quality of the care they are able to provide to their infants.<sup>7,8</sup> Providing time off from work for new parents gives babies time to form secure attachments, which form the foundation for future relationships and development.<sup>9</sup>

Rhode Island's Temporary Disability Insurance Program (TDI) provides partial-wage replacement for participating workers who are temporarily unable to work because of a physical or mental condition, including pregnancy complications and recovery from childbirth.<sup>10,11</sup> TCI supplements TDI; women who give birth are eligible for both.

## Approved Temporary Caregiver Insurance (TCI) Claims, Rhode Island, 2016



Source: Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training, TCI Program, 2016.

◆ There were 5,882 approved claims for TCI during 2016 (up from 4,941 in 2015 and 3,870 in 2014); 80% were to bond with a new child and 20% were to care for a seriously ill family member.<sup>12</sup>

◆ Of the 4,684 approved TCI claims to bond with a new child, 98% were for a newborn child and 2% were for a newly adopted, foster, or other child. Thirty-seven percent of claims to bond with a new child were filed by men and 63% were filed by women.<sup>13</sup>

◆ Of the 1,198 approved TCI claims to care for a seriously ill family member, 53% were to care for a spouse or domestic partner, 31% were to care for a parent or parent-in-law, 16% were to care for a child, and 1% were to care for a grandparent. Thirty-one percent of claims to care for a seriously ill family member were filed by men and 69% were filed by women.<sup>14</sup>

## Temporary Disability Insurance for Pregnancy Complications & Childbirth

◆ In 2016, there were 1,775 approved TDI claims for disabling pregnancy complications and 1,905 TDI claims to recover from childbirth.<sup>15</sup> Recovery from childbirth is a disabling condition covered by TDI. Six weeks are typically covered for vaginal births and eight weeks for cesarean section births (more time can be approved by a physician). TDI is not available to new parents who do not give birth (e.g., fathers and adoptive parents).<sup>16</sup>

Table 9. **Approved Temporary Disability Claims for Childbirth & Temporary Caregiver Insurance for Paid Family Leave, Rhode Island, 2016**

| CITY/TOWN                   | TEMPORARY DISABILITY INSURANCE (TDI) CLAIMS |                    |                  | TEMPORARY CAREGIVER INSURANCE (TCI) CLAIMS |                               |                  |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------|
|                             | TDI FOR PREGNANCY COMPLICATIONS             | TDI FOR CHILDBIRTH | TOTAL TDI CLAIMS | TCI TO BOND WITH NEW CHILD                 | TCI TO CARE FOR FAMILY MEMBER | TOTAL TCI CLAIMS |
| Barrington                  | 16                                          | 18                 | 34               | 34                                         | 12                            | 46               |
| Bristol                     | 28                                          | 26                 | 54               | 85                                         | 24                            | 109              |
| Burrillville                | 27                                          | 24                 | 51               | 46                                         | 15                            | 61               |
| Central Falls               | 29                                          | 34                 | 63               | 78                                         | 15                            | 93               |
| Charlestown                 | 5                                           | 12                 | 17               | 26                                         | 17                            | 43               |
| Coventry                    | 64                                          | 62                 | 126              | 180                                        | 53                            | 233              |
| Cranston                    | 118                                         | 137                | 255              | 396                                        | 107                           | 503              |
| Cumberland                  | 43                                          | 50                 | 93               | 110                                        | 33                            | 143              |
| East Greenwich              | 20                                          | 27                 | 47               | 55                                         | 15                            | 70               |
| East Providence             | 77                                          | 72                 | 149              | 218                                        | 63                            | 281              |
| Exeter                      | 9                                           | 7                  | 16               | 21                                         | 5                             | 26               |
| Foster                      | 7                                           | 6                  | 13               | 13                                         | 6                             | 19               |
| Glocester                   | 14                                          | 16                 | 30               | 43                                         | 11                            | 54               |
| Hopkinton                   | 10                                          | 11                 | 21               | 33                                         | 7                             | 40               |
| Jamestown                   | *                                           | *                  | *                | 8                                          | 4                             | 12               |
| Johnston                    | 47                                          | 42                 | 89               | 161                                        | 50                            | 211              |
| Lincoln                     | 31                                          | 47                 | 78               | 94                                         | 23                            | 117              |
| Little Compton              | *                                           | *                  | *                | *                                          | *                             | *                |
| Middletown                  | 20                                          | 16                 | 36               | 28                                         | 7                             | 35               |
| Narragansett                | 7                                           | 6                  | 13               | 31                                         | 12                            | 43               |
| New Shoreham                | *                                           | *                  | *                | *                                          | *                             | *                |
| Newport                     | 31                                          | 30                 | 61               | 59                                         | 11                            | 70               |
| North Kingstown             | 33                                          | 41                 | 74               | 88                                         | 25                            | 113              |
| North Providence            | 51                                          | 47                 | 98               | 124                                        | 40                            | 164              |
| North Smithfield            | 15                                          | 22                 | 37               | 41                                         | 8                             | 49               |
| Pawtucket                   | 114                                         | 153                | 267              | 360                                        | 67                            | 427              |
| Portsmouth                  | 18                                          | 17                 | 35               | 43                                         | 17                            | 60               |
| Providence                  | 314                                         | 325                | 639              | 678                                        | 149                           | 827              |
| Richmond                    | 9                                           | 5                  | 14               | 11                                         | 2                             | 13               |
| Scituate                    | 18                                          | 14                 | 32               | 45                                         | 19                            | 64               |
| Smithfield                  | 21                                          | 25                 | 46               | 73                                         | 21                            | 94               |
| South Kingstown             | 30                                          | 41                 | 71               | 79                                         | 17                            | 96               |
| Tiverton                    | 17                                          | 18                 | 35               | 39                                         | 3                             | 42               |
| Warren                      | 11                                          | 19                 | 30               | 43                                         | 13                            | 56               |
| Warwick                     | 181                                         | 162                | 343              | 459                                        | 123                           | 582              |
| Westerly                    | 25                                          | 22                 | 47               | 79                                         | 15                            | 94               |
| West Greenwich              | 8                                           | 10                 | 18               | 17                                         | 7                             | 24               |
| West Warwick                | 61                                          | 45                 | 106              | 181                                        | 41                            | 222              |
| Woonsocket                  | 52                                          | 56                 | 108              | 119                                        | 33                            | 152              |
| <i>Out-of-State</i>         | <i>189</i>                                  | <i>230</i>         | <i>419</i>       | <i>480</i>                                 | <i>106</i>                    | <i>586</i>       |
| <i>Four Core Cities</i>     | <i>509</i>                                  | <i>568</i>         | <i>1,077</i>     | <i>1,235</i>                               | <i>264</i>                    | <i>1,499</i>     |
| <i>Remainder of State</i>   | <i>1,077</i>                                | <i>1,107</i>       | <i>2,184</i>     | <i>2,969</i>                               | <i>828</i>                    | <i>3,797</i>     |
| <i>Rhode Island</i>         | <i>1,586</i>                                | <i>1,675</i>       | <i>3,261</i>     | <i>4,204</i>                               | <i>1,092</i>                  | <i>5,296</i>     |
| <i>Total Program Claims</i> | <i>1,775</i>                                | <i>1,905</i>       | <i>3,680</i>     | <i>4,684</i>                               | <i>1,198</i>                  | <i>5,882</i>     |

### Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training, Approved TDI claims for pregnancy complications and childbirth and approved TCI claims, 2016.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

Out-of-State are approved claims for residents of states other than Rhode Island. TDI and TCI are available to employees of Rhode Island companies and organizations, including employees who are not residents of the state.

\*Data for any town with less than a total of 10 approved claims are suppressed by the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training.

### References

- <sup>1</sup> The State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Department of Labor and Training. (2014). *Temporary Caregiver Insurance [Brochure]*.
- <sup>2,5</sup> Ochshorn, S. & Skinner, C. (2012). *Building a competitive future right from the start: How paid leave strengthens 21st century families*. New York, NY: National Center for Children in Poverty.
- <sup>3</sup> *Business support for the Family and Medical Leave Act*. (2013). Washington, DC: Center for Law and Social Policy.
- <sup>4</sup> *Rhode Island Parental and Family Medical Leave Act*, Title 28 Rhode Island General Law § 28-48-2 (1987,1990).
- <sup>6,9</sup> *Family leave in the early years*. (2013). Washington, DC: Zero to Three.
- <sup>7</sup> Gault, B., Hartmann, H., Hegewisch, A., Milli, J., & Reichlin, L. (2014). *Paid parental leave in the United States: What the data tell us about access, usage, and economic and health benefits*. Washington, DC: Institute for Women's Policy Research.
- <sup>8</sup> Klevens, J., Luo, F., Xu, L., Peterson, C., & Lutzman, N. (2016). Paid family leave's effect on hospital admissions for pediatric abusive head trauma. *Injury Prevention*, 1-4.
- <sup>10</sup> *Annual statistical supplement to the Social Security Bulletin, 2014*. (2015). Washington, DC: Social Security Administration, Office of Retirement and Disability Policy.
- <sup>11,16</sup> *Existing temporary disability insurance programs*. (2015). Washington, DC: National Partnership for Women and Families.
- <sup>12,13,14,15</sup> Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training, 2016.

# Children Receiving Child Support

## DEFINITION

*Children receiving child support* is the percentage of parents who make child support payments on time and in full as indicated in the Rhode Island Office of Child Support Services system. The percentage does not include cases in which paternity has not been established or cases in which the non-custodial parent is not under a court order because he/she cannot be located. Court orders for child support and medical support require establishment of paternity.

## SIGNIFICANCE

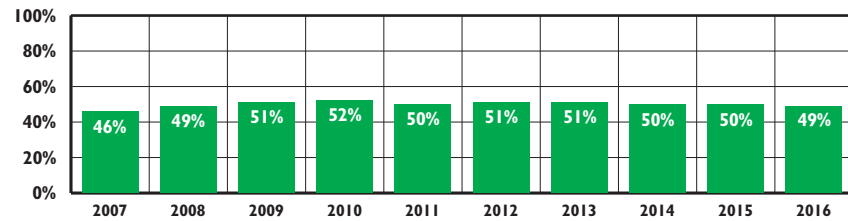
Child support is a major part of the safety net for children and families. In 2015, nearly one in four U.S. children (15.9 million) received public child support services.<sup>1,2</sup> Child support provides a mechanism for non-custodial parents (usually fathers) to contribute to the financial and medical support of their children. Child support programs can increase the reliability of child support paid by helping custodial parents locate the non-custodial parent, establishing paternity and support orders, and removing barriers to payment, such as referring parents to employment services, supporting co-parenting relationships, and helping to prevent family violence.<sup>3</sup>

The receipt of child support payments can significantly improve the economic well-being of a child growing up in a

family with a non-resident parent. In 2015, child support lifted more than 750,000 U.S. children out of poverty, and for poor custodial parents that received full child support, these payments represented more than two-thirds (70%) of their mean personal income. Custodial parents who receive steady child support payments are less likely to rely on public assistance programs and more likely to find work faster and stay employed longer than those who do not.<sup>4,5,6</sup>

Even when a child support order is in place, payments can be unreliable. Noncustodial parents of poor children are often poor themselves and have limited ability to provide financial support to their children.<sup>7</sup> Incarcerated parents with active child support orders are unable to pay while in prison, and may face legal and financial burdens upon release.<sup>8</sup> Fatherhood programs that focus on low-income, non-custodial parents and provide job skills training, employment assistance, parenting skills, relationship building with the co-parent, and links to the child support system can increase child support payments. Non-custodial parents who pay regular child support are more involved with their children, providing them with emotional and financial support. The receipt of regular child support payments can have a positive effect on children's academic achievement.<sup>9,10</sup>

**Non-Custodial Parents With Court Orders Who Pay Child Support on Time and in Full, Rhode Island, 2007-2016**



Source: Rhode Island Department of Human Services, Office of Child Support Services, 2007-2016.

◆ As of December 1, 2016, there were 73,797 children in Rhode Island's Office of Child Support Services system, including private, interstate and IV-D cases (i.e., families receiving RI Works, RIte Care or child-care assistance). Forty-six percent of the children in the Child Support system with a known Rhode Island residence lived in the four core cities. Half (49%) of non-custodial parents under court order in Rhode Island were making child support payments on time and in full.<sup>11</sup>

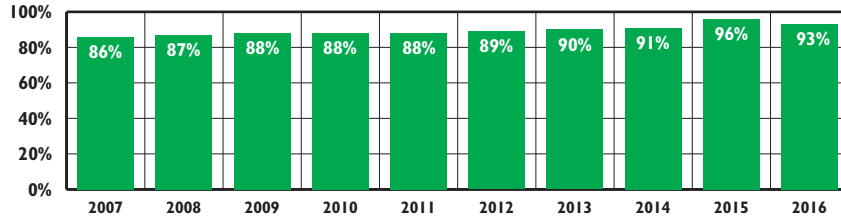
◆ In 2016, the Rhode Island Office of Child Support Services collected \$93.8 million in child support, a decrease of \$1.2 million over the previous year. Collections go toward both child support and medical support. Eighty-six percent (\$80.4 million) of the funds collected were distributed directly to families and the remainder was retained by the state and federal governments as reimbursement for RI Works (cash assistance), RIte Care health coverage, and other expenses.<sup>12</sup>

◆ In Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2015, the Rhode Island Office of Child Support Services collected \$5.86 for every \$1.00 Rhode Island spent on administering the program.<sup>13</sup>

◆ During FFY 2016, there were 19,298 court orders for non-custodial parents to provide medical insurance and 12,407 orders for non-custodial parents to contribute funds toward medical coverage. More than \$6.2 million in payments (known as "cash medical") was retained by the state to offset the cost of RIte Care, while approximately \$1.9 million was disbursed directly to families to offset the cost of private health insurance coverage or other medical expenses.<sup>14</sup>

# Children Receiving Child Support

## Rhode Island Children in the Office of Child Support Services System With Paternity Established, 2007-2016



Source: Rhode Island Department of Human Services, Office of Child Support Services, 2007-2016. Includes all children in the child support system – private, interstate, and IV-D cases (i.e., cases that received assistance with child support because they were receiving RI Works, RIte Care, or child care assistance benefits).

- ◆ The percentage of children in the Rhode Island child support system with paternity established increased from 86% in 2007 to 93% of children in 2016.<sup>15</sup>
- ◆ When applying for cash assistance, child care assistance, or RIte Care, parents are asked to provide information on the other parent to the Office of Child Support Services. This information is used to establish paternity (if not already established), and to seek child support payments and/or medical support. Victims of domestic violence can apply for a waiver of this requirement if providing this information could endanger themselves or their children.<sup>16,17</sup>
- ◆ In FFY 2015, Rhode Island had the lowest rate of court orders established for child support in New England (Maine – 95%; Vermont – 90%; Connecticut – 87%; Massachusetts – 86%; New Hampshire – 81%; Rhode Island – 76%). The national average for cases with child support orders established is 86%.<sup>18</sup> In FFY 2015, Rhode Island had the highest case/staff ratio in New England at 759 cases per person, nearly five times that of the lowest state, Vermont.<sup>19</sup> High caseloads and a low number of full time staff affects the Office of Child Support Services’ ability to establish court orders for child support.

### References

<sup>1,13,18,19</sup> U.S. Office of Child Support Enforcement, Administration for Children & Families. (2016). *FY 2015 preliminary report*. Table P-93. Retrieved January 17, 2017, from [www.acf.hhs.gov](http://www.acf.hhs.gov)

<sup>2</sup> Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics (2016). *Table POP-1: Child population: Number of children (in millions) ages 0-17 in the United States by Age, 1950-2015 and projected 2016-2050*. Retrieved January 19, 2017, from [www.childstats.gov](http://www.childstats.gov)

(continued on page 176)

## Child Support and Rhode Island Works

- ◆ As of December 1, 2016, Rhode Island’s Office of Child Support Services system included 5,713 children enrolled in Rhode Island Works (RI Works).<sup>20</sup>
- ◆ In 2016, the average child support obligation for children enrolled in RI Works was \$278 per month, compared to an average child support obligation of \$388 per month for children in non-RI Works families.<sup>21</sup> (Calculations for child support payments are based on both parents’ incomes, so it is expected that the average child support obligation for children enrolled in RI Works would be lower.)
- ◆ In Rhode Island, only the first \$50 of child support paid on time each month on behalf of a child receiving RI Works cash assistance (called a “pass-through” payment) goes to the custodial parent caring for the child. The remainder of the payment is retained by the federal and state governments as reimbursement for assistance received through RI Works.<sup>22</sup>
- ◆ In FFY 2016 in Rhode Island, an average of 539 families received at least one “pass-through” payment each month, for a total of \$313,927 paid to families enrolled in RI Works during FFY 2016.<sup>23</sup>
- ◆ States have the option to increase the amount of money passed through to children. States that pass through up to \$100 per month for one child (and up to \$200 per month for two or more children) and disregard this income in calculating eligibility for cash assistance do not have to reimburse the federal government for its share of the child support collected. Since this federal policy change went into effect, a number of states have increased the amount they pass through to children.<sup>24</sup> Rhode Island has not implemented this option.<sup>25</sup>
- ◆ More generous child support “pass-through” policies for families receiving cash assistance provide a greater incentive for custodial parents to seek child support and for noncustodial parents to make regular payments because more of the child support payment goes to the child. Increased “pass-throughs” could therefore increase total child support collections, increase family income, and potentially reduce the amount of other benefits.<sup>26</sup>

# Children in Poverty

## DEFINITION

*Children in poverty* is the percentage of children under age 18 who are living in households with incomes below the poverty threshold, as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau. Poverty is determined based on income received during the year prior to the Census.

## SIGNIFICANCE

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, experience difficulty in school, become teen parents, and earn less or be unemployed as adults.<sup>1,2,3</sup> Children in poverty are less likely to be enrolled in preschool, more likely to attend schools that lack resources and rigor, and have fewer opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities.<sup>4,5,6</sup>

Nationally and in Rhode Island, minority children are more likely to grow up poor than White children. Children under age six, who have single parents, whose parents have low educational levels, or whose parents work part-time or are unemployed are at increased risk of living in poverty.<sup>7,8</sup>

In 2016, the federal poverty threshold was \$19,337 for a family of three with two children and \$24,339 for a family of four with two children.<sup>9</sup> The official

poverty measure does not reflect the effects of key government policies and programs that support families living in poverty, does not take into account the increased cost of transportation, child care, housing, and medical care, and does not consider geographic variations in the cost of living. To address these limitations, in 2011, the U.S. Census Bureau began releasing a Supplemental Poverty Measure. This measure does not replace the official measure, but provides policy makers with a new way to evaluate the effects of anti-poverty policies.<sup>10</sup>

According to the *2016 Rhode Island Standard of Need*, a single-parent family with two children would need to earn \$52,932 a year to meet its basic needs, more than twice the federal poverty level for a family of three. Work supports such as subsidized child care, health coverage (RIte Care), food assistance, and tax credits, can help families with incomes below the federal poverty threshold meet their basic needs.<sup>11</sup>

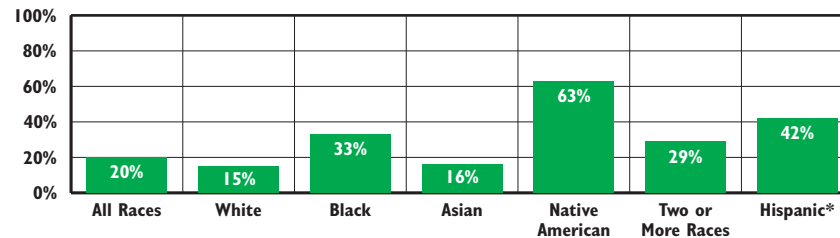
| Children in Poverty       |       |       |       |             |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|
|                           | 2012  | 2013  | 2014  | 2015        |
| RI                        | 19.5% | 21.5% | 19.8% | 19.4%       |
| US                        | 22.6% | 22.2% | 21.7% | 20.7%       |
| <b>National Rank*</b>     |       |       |       | <b>24th</b> |
| <b>New England Rank**</b> |       |       |       | <b>6th</b>  |

\*1st is best; 50th is worst

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012-2015. Table R1704.

**Children in Poverty, by Race and Ethnicity, Rhode Island, 2011-2015**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015. Tables S1701, B17020A, B17020B, B17020C, B17020D, B17020G and B17020I. \*Hispanic children may be included in any race category.

◆ Between 2011 and 2015, 20% (43,282) of Rhode Island's 212,038 children under age 18 lived in households with incomes below the federal poverty threshold.<sup>12</sup>

◆ In Rhode Island as well as in the United States as a whole, Hispanic, Black, and Native American children are more likely than White and Asian children to live in families with incomes below the federal poverty threshold. Between 2011 and 2015, 63% of Native American, 42% of Hispanic, and 33% of Black children in Rhode Island lived in poverty, compared to 16% of Asian children and 15% of White children.

◆ Between 2011 and 2015, of all children living in poverty in Rhode Island, over half (54%) were White, 15% were Black, 3% were Asian, 2% were Native American, 18% were Some other race, and 8% were Two or more races.<sup>13,14</sup>

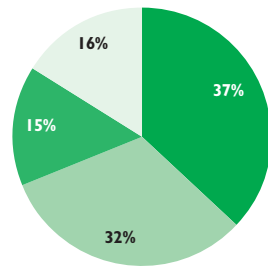
◆ Between 2011 and 2015, 46% of Rhode Island's poor children were Hispanic. Hispanic children may be included in any race category. The Census Bureau asks about race separately from ethnicity, and the majority of families who identify as Some other race also identify as Hispanic.<sup>15</sup>

◆ In 2015, nearly one in five (19.4%) children in Rhode Island (a total of 40,566 children) lived in poverty.<sup>16</sup>

## Rhode Island's Poor Children, 2011-2015

### By Age

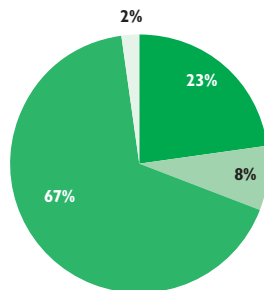
- 37% Ages 5 and Younger
- 32% Ages 6 to 11
- 15% Ages 12 to 14
- 16% Ages 15 to 17



n=43,282

### By Family Structure

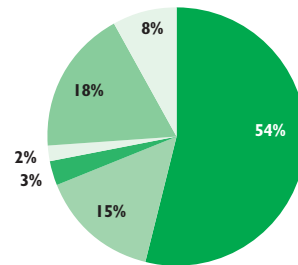
- 23% Married Couple Family
- 8% Unmarried Male Householder
- 67% Unmarried Female Householder
- 2% Not in Related-Family Household



n=43,282

### By Race\*

- 54% White
- 15% Black
- 3% Asian
- 2% Native American
- 18% Some Other Race
- 8% Two or More Races



n=43,282

\*Hispanic children may be included in any race category. Between 2011 and 2015, 20,071 (46%) of Rhode Island's 43,282 poor children were Hispanic.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015. Tables S1701, B17001, B17006, B17020A, B17020B, B17020C, B17020D, B17020F, B17020G, & B17020I. Population includes children for whom poverty status was determined. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

## Child Poverty Concentrated in Four Core Cities, Rhode Island, 2011-2015

| CITY/TOWN           | NUMBER IN POVERTY | PERCENTAGE IN POVERTY | NUMBER IN EXTREME POVERTY | PERCENTAGE IN EXTREME POVERTY |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Central Falls       | 2,324             | 41.9%                 | 929                       | 16.8%                         |
| Pawtucket           | 5,299             | 32.7%                 | 2,493                     | 15.4%                         |
| Providence          | 15,609            | 39.0%                 | 7,303                     | 18.2%                         |
| Woonsocket          | 3,649             | 40.8%                 | 1,775                     | 19.8%                         |
| <b>Rhode Island</b> | <b>43,282</b>     | <b>20.4%</b>          | <b>19,432</b>             | <b>9.2%</b>                   |

Source: Population Reference Bureau analysis of 2011-2015 American Community Survey data.

◆ Between 2011 and 2015, almost two-thirds (62%) of Rhode Island's children living in poverty lived in just four cities. These cities, termed core cities, include Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket, all communities in which more than one in four children live below poverty (38% between 2011-2015). The four core cities also have substantial numbers of children living in extreme poverty, defined as families with incomes below 50% of the federal poverty level, or \$9,669 for a family of three with two children and \$12,170 for a family of four with two children in 2016.<sup>17,18</sup>

## Young Children Under Age Six in Poverty, Four Core Cities and Rhode Island, 2011-2015

| CITY/TOWN           | NUMBER <AGE 6 IN POVERTY | PERCENTAGE <AGE 6 IN POVERTY |
|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Central Falls       | 1,079                    | 47.0%                        |
| Pawtucket           | 2,068                    | 35.5%                        |
| Providence          | 5,308                    | 40.3%                        |
| Woonsocket          | 1,553                    | 47.6%                        |
| <b>Rhode Island</b> | <b>16,045</b>            | <b>24.3%</b>                 |

Source: Population Reference Bureau analysis of 2011-2015 American Community Survey data.

◆ Between 2011 and 2015, 24.3% (16,045) of Rhode Island children under age six lived in poverty.<sup>19</sup> Children under age six are at higher risk of living in poverty than any other age group.<sup>20</sup> 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.<sup>21,22</sup>

# Children in Poverty

## Financial Asset Building

- ◆ Having assets such as bank or credit union accounts provides families with a safe place to store their money and allows families to conduct basic financial transactions, manage financial emergencies related to unemployment or illness, and plan for their future.<sup>23,24</sup>
- ◆ Many low-income families lack knowledge about or access to traditional banks and instead rely on cash transactions or alternative financial services, such as check-cashing stores, payday lenders, rent-to-own stores, and refund anticipation loans. These families pay high fees for financial transactions and high interest rates on loans, and often struggle to build credit histories and achieve economic security.<sup>25,26</sup>
- ◆ In Rhode Island in 2013, 6.2% of households did not have a checking or savings account, compared to 7.7% for the U.S. as a whole. Nationally, households with incomes less than \$15,000 and households where Spanish is the only language spoken are less likely to have a checking or savings account. These households are more likely to use alternative financial services, such as money orders, cash checking services, or payday lenders.<sup>27</sup>
- ◆ Raising awareness about the importance of saving and consumer protections, providing financial education and counseling, preventing predatory lending, and connecting families to safe and affordable financial products can support families in using traditional banking institutions and increase their savings.<sup>28</sup>
- ◆ State and federal policies that protect families from predatory mortgage lending and payday lending and expand access to convenient, cost-effective, and safe financial services would allow families to keep more of their earnings, save and invest more, and could ultimately promote a more stable workforce and stronger communities.<sup>29,30,31</sup>
- ◆ Many public assistance programs have eligibility provisions that limit the amount of assets and/or the value of vehicles a family can own. Such policies discourage families from saving and building the assets they need to improve their economic security.<sup>32</sup>
- ◆ Rhode Island currently has a \$1,000 asset limit to qualify for and retain RI Works cash assistance and is one of only nine states with such a restrictive asset limit. Under Rhode Island law, the value of one vehicle for each adult household member (not to exceed two vehicles per household) does not count toward the family's asset limit.<sup>33,34</sup>

## Building Blocks of Economic Security

### Income Supports

- ◆ The Supplemental Poverty Measure shows the positive impact of government programs, such as the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), Social Security, SNAP, and housing subsidies. These programs kept millions of children out of poverty.<sup>35</sup>

### Health Coverage and Access to Care

- ◆ Low-income people are the most likely to be uninsured; some because of job loss, some are ineligible for coverage through their employers because they work part-time, and other cannot afford the cost.<sup>36</sup> Children with health insurance (public or private) are more likely to have a regular and accessible source of health care than uninsured children.<sup>37</sup>

### Affordable Quality Child Care

- ◆ In Rhode Island in 2015, the average cost of center-based child care for one infant was \$12,091. Child care subsidies can help poor families afford high-quality child care, which can help parents maintain employment and support children's development.<sup>38,39</sup>

### Educational Attainment

- ◆ Fifty-two percent of Rhode Island children whose parents lack a high school diploma and 32% of those parents have only a high school diploma live in poverty.<sup>40</sup> By 2020, 71% of all jobs in Rhode Island will require postsecondary training beyond high school.<sup>41</sup>

### Affordable Housing

- ◆ In 2016, the average rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Rhode Island was \$1,288.<sup>42</sup> In Rhode Island, a family of three with an income at the federal poverty level would need to spend 77% of its income on rent to pay this amount, well above the recommended percentage of 30%.<sup>43,44</sup> Nationally, only one in four low-income eligible families receive rental assistance to help them afford the high cost of housing.<sup>45</sup>

### Child Support

- ◆ As of December 1, 2016, there were 73,797 children in Rhode Island's Office of Child Support Services system.<sup>46</sup> Child support helps reduce poverty. Custodial parents who receive steady child support payments are less likely to rely on public assistance and more likely to find work faster and stay employed longer than those who do not.<sup>47</sup> Among poor custodial parents that received full child support in 2015 in the U.S., these payments represented 67% of their mean personal income.<sup>48</sup>

Table 10. Children Living Below the Federal Poverty Threshold, Rhode Island, 2000 and 2011-2015

| CITY/TOWN          | CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 LIVING BELOW POVERTY 2011-2015 |       |                                       |       |                                                   |       |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------------------------|-------|
|                    | CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 LIVING BELOW POVERTY, 2000     |       | ESTIMATES WITH HIGH MARGINS OF ERROR* |       | ESTIMATES WITH LOWER, ACCEPTABLE MARGINS OF ERROR |       |
|                    | N                                                    | %     | N                                     | %     | N                                                 | %     |
| Barrington         | 127                                                  | 2.7%  |                                       |       | 58                                                | 1.4%  |
| Bristol            | 436                                                  | 10.0% |                                       |       | 252                                               | 7.3%  |
| Burrillville       | 236                                                  | 6.0%  | 374                                   | 11.7% |                                                   |       |
| Central Falls      | 2,210                                                | 40.9% | 2,324                                 | 41.9% |                                                   |       |
| Charlestown        | 78                                                   | 4.7%  | 398                                   | 26.6% |                                                   |       |
| Coventry           | 481                                                  | 5.9%  |                                       |       | 715                                               | 10.8% |
| Cranston           | 1,496                                                | 9.1%  |                                       |       | 2,785                                             | 17.7% |
| Cumberland         | 237                                                  | 3.1%  |                                       |       | 690                                               | 9.5%  |
| East Greenwich     | 147                                                  | 4.1%  |                                       |       | 191                                               | 5.8%  |
| East Providence    | 1,126                                                | 10.8% |                                       |       | 1,665                                             | 17.5% |
| Exeter             | 112                                                  | 7.5%  | 102                                   | 8.5%  |                                                   |       |
| Foster             | 32                                                   | 2.9%  | 45                                    | 5.7%  |                                                   |       |
| Glocester          | 178                                                  | 6.7%  |                                       |       | 115                                               | 6.3%  |
| Hopkinton          | 115                                                  | 5.9%  | 99                                    | 7.4%  |                                                   |       |
| Jamestown          | 17                                                   | 1.4%  | 127                                   | 13.4% |                                                   |       |
| Johnston           | 527                                                  | 9.0%  |                                       |       | 557                                               | 10.8% |
| Lincoln            | 329                                                  | 6.5%  |                                       |       | 621                                               | 12.8% |
| Little Compton     | 8                                                    | 1.0%  | 59                                    | 10.6% |                                                   |       |
| Middletown         | 264                                                  | 6.2%  |                                       |       | 407                                               | 11.0% |
| Narragansett       | 235                                                  | 8.6%  |                                       |       | 106                                               | 5.1%  |
| New Shoreham       | 19                                                   | 10.2% | 11                                    | 9.2%  |                                                   |       |
| Newport            | 1,267                                                | 24.4% | 862                                   | 24.1% |                                                   |       |
| North Kingstown    | 663                                                  | 9.7%  |                                       |       | 852                                               | 14.1% |
| North Providence   | 579                                                  | 10.1% |                                       |       | 620                                               | 11.7% |
| North Smithfield   | 72                                                   | 3.0%  |                                       |       | 75                                                | 3.6%  |
| Pawtucket          | 4,542                                                | 25.3% |                                       |       | 5,299                                             | 32.7% |
| Portsmouth         | 118                                                  | 2.8%  |                                       |       | 134                                               | 3.7%  |
| Providence         | 18,045                                               | 40.5% |                                       |       | 15,609                                            | 39.0% |
| Richmond           | 82                                                   | 4.2%  |                                       |       | 62                                                | 3.5%  |
| Scituate           | 113                                                  | 4.3%  | 184                                   | 9.5%  |                                                   |       |
| Smithfield         | 153                                                  | 3.9%  |                                       |       | 35                                                | 1.0%  |
| South Kingstown    | 324                                                  | 5.3%  |                                       |       | 418                                               | 8.8%  |
| Tiverton           | 92                                                   | 2.8%  |                                       |       | 250                                               | 8.8%  |
| Warren             | 205                                                  | 8.4%  | 297                                   | 16.0% |                                                   |       |
| Warwick            | 1,243                                                | 6.7%  |                                       |       | 1,271                                             | 8.5%  |
| West Greenwich     | 40                                                   | 2.7%  | -                                     | -     | -                                                 | -     |
| West Warwick       | 1,186                                                | 18.1% | 1,237                                 | 22.5% |                                                   |       |
| Westerly           | 534                                                  | 10.0% | 727                                   | 16.6% |                                                   |       |
| Woonsocket         | 3,494                                                | 31.8% | 3,649                                 | 40.8% |                                                   |       |
| Four Core Cities   | 28,291                                               | 35.9% |                                       |       | 26,881                                            | 38.0% |
| Remainder of State | 12,871                                               | 7.8%  |                                       |       | 16,401                                            | 11.6% |
| Rhode Island       | 41,162                                               | 16.9% |                                       |       | 43,282                                            | 20.4% |

### Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Data are from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 3, P87 and PCT.50 and Population Reference Bureau analysis of 2011-2015 American Community Survey data. The data include the poverty rate for all children for whom poverty was determined, including “related” children and “unrelated children” living in the household.

The American Community Survey is a sample survey, and therefore the number and percentage of children living in poverty provided are estimates, not actual counts. The reliability of these estimates varies by community. In general, estimates for small communities and communities with relatively low poverty rates are not as reliable as estimates for larger communities and communities with higher poverty rates.

\*The Margin of Error around the percentage is greater than or equal to five percentage points.

The Margin of Error is a measure of the reliability of the estimate and is provided by the U.S. Census Bureau. The Margin of Error means that there is a 90 percent chance that the true value is no less than the estimate minus the Margin of Error and no more than the estimate plus the Margin of Error. (See the Methodology Section for Margins of Errors for all communities.)

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

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(continued on page 176)

# Children in Families Receiving Cash Assistance

## DEFINITION

*Children in families receiving cash assistance* is the percentage of children under age 18 who were living in families receiving cash assistance through the Rhode Island Works Program (RI Works). These data measure the number of children and families enrolled in RI Works during the month of December. Children and families who participated in the program at other points in the year but who were not enrolled in that month are not included.

## SIGNIFICANCE

The goal of the Rhode Island Works Program (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. Children and families qualify for cash assistance based on their income, resources, and the number of people in their families.<sup>1</sup>

RI Works cash assistance recipients must participate in an employment plan unless they meet specific criteria for an exemption. This employment plan must take into account the parent's skills, education, and family responsibilities as well as local employment opportunities and should outline a process for helping the parent meet his or her employment goals. Parents should be informed about

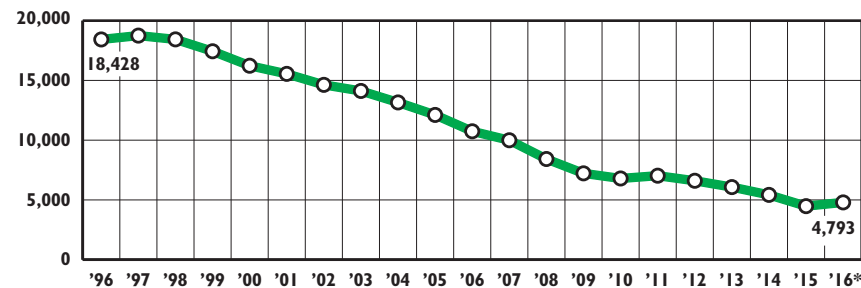
opportunities to seek additional education or training to improve their employability prospects.<sup>2</sup>

RI Works provides a safety net for some children whose parents are unable to work due to a disability and can function as an unemployment system for parents who do not have sufficient earnings or work experience to qualify for unemployment benefits. RI Works also provides time-limited supplementary cash assistance to very low-income working families.<sup>3</sup> In December 2016, the average hourly wage of working parents enrolled in RI Works was \$11.72 per hour.<sup>4</sup>

RI Works connects families to the Office of Child Support Services, which assists families in establishing paternity (when applicable), identifying and locating non-custodial parents, and obtaining child support payments from non-custodial parents.<sup>5</sup> In Rhode Island, the first \$50 of child support paid on time each month on behalf of a child enrolled in RI Works goes to the custodial parent caring for the child. The balance is shared by the state and federal governments as reimbursement for assistance received through RI Works.<sup>6,7</sup>

The maximum monthly RI Works benefit for a family of three is \$554 per month.<sup>8</sup> Families receiving the maximum monthly cash benefit have incomes that are less than one-half the federal poverty level and are living in extreme poverty.<sup>9</sup>

Cash Assistance Caseload, Rhode Island, 1996–2016\*



Source: Rhode Island Department of Human Services, InRhodes Database, December 1, 1996–2015 and RI Bridges Database, December 2016. Cases can be child-only or whole families and multiple people can be included in one case. \*For 2016, the Rhode Island Department of Human Services provided enrollment for the month of December rather than December 1. Comparisons to earlier years should be made with caution.

◆ Since 1996, when the program began, the Rhode Island cash assistance caseload had been steadily declining. However, between 2015 and 2016, the caseload increased by 7%, from 4,479 to 4,793 families.<sup>10</sup>

◆ The RI Works caseload declined due to policies implemented in 2008, when the program changed from the Family Independence Program (FIP) to RI Works. These policies included new time limits (a 48-month lifetime limit for benefits and a periodic time limit that limits assistance to no more than 24 months of assistance in any 60-month period), closing child-only cases when parents reach their time limit, and limiting eligibility for legal permanent residents to those who have had that status for five years.<sup>11</sup>

◆ The 2016 caseload increase may be due to efforts to address systems issues related to the difficult transition to the RI Bridges computer system and/or to the fact that the data represent a full month of enrollment rather a single day.<sup>12</sup>

◆ In December 2016, there were 3,456 adults and 8,960 children under age 18 enrolled in RI Works. Almost three-quarters (72%) of RI Works beneficiaries were children, and 41% of the children enrolled in RI Works were under the age of six.<sup>13</sup>

◆ High unemployment rates for adults with limited education, coupled with shorter time limits for cash assistance leaves many families with children experiencing deep poverty, hardship, and homelessness. In 2015, 15,981 children in Rhode Island lived in extreme poverty, yet only 8,960 received cash assistance in December 2016.<sup>14,15</sup>

# Children in Families Receiving Cash Assistance

## RI Works Policies

### Work Requirements

◆ Single-parent families must participate in a work activity for a minimum of 20 hours per week if they have a child under age six and a minimum of 30 hours per week if their youngest child is age six or older. For two-parent families, one or both parents must participate in work activities for an individual or combined total of 35 hours per week.<sup>16</sup>

### Time Limits

◆ 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. All cash assistance issued in Rhode Island or any other state since May 1, 1997 counts toward the lifetime limit, while assistance received since July 1, 2008 counts toward the 24-month periodic time limit.<sup>17</sup>

### Hardship Extensions

◆ Families can apply for hardship extensions that allow them to continue receiving cash assistance after reaching the time limit if the parent has a documented significant disability, is caring for a significantly disabled family member, is unable to pursue employment due to domestic violence, is homeless, or is unable to work because of “a critical other condition or circumstance.” While parents must submit requests for hardship extensions (initially for six months, and then for three-month extensions), there is no limit on the total time a family can receive a hardship extension.<sup>18,19</sup>

### Child-Only Cases

◆ Child-only cases are those that receive assistance for only the children in the family because the child’s parent is ineligible. Child-only cases include children living with a non-parent or a parent who is disabled and receiving Supplemental Security Income.<sup>20</sup>

### Sanctions

◆ If a parent misses a required appointment, refuses or quits a job, or in some other way fails to comply with an employment plan and is not able to establish “good cause” (e.g., lack of child care, illness, a family crisis or other allowed circumstance), the family’s cash benefit is reduced. If benefits are reduced for a total of three months (consecutive or not) due to non-compliance, the family’s case is closed and the entire family loses the RI Works benefit. Benefits can be restored in the month after the parent reapplies and comes into compliance.<sup>21</sup>

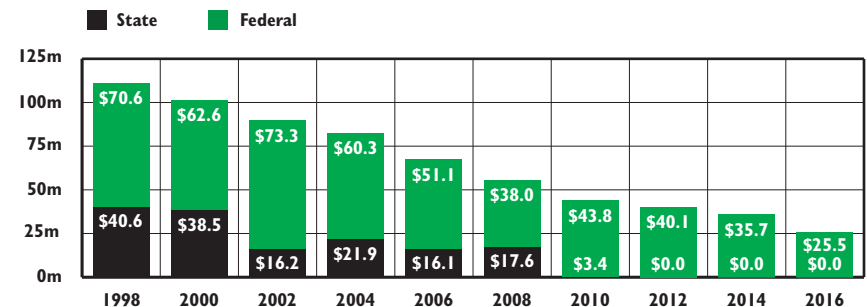
## RI Works by Case Type, 2016

|                                                | NUMBER       | PERCENTAGE |
|------------------------------------------------|--------------|------------|
| Child-only cases                               | 1,788        | 37%        |
| Cases with adults with a work activity         | 933          | 19%        |
| Cases with adults exempt from a work activity* | 733          | 15%        |
| Unknown status                                 | 1,299        | 27%        |
| <b>Total RI Works Caseload</b>                 | <b>4,793</b> |            |

Source: Rhode Island Department of Human Services, RI Bridges Database, December 2016.

\*RI Works regulations require that all parents and caretaker relatives included in the cash assistance grant participate in a work activity unless they receive a temporary exemption. Exemptions from work activities include: youngest child under age one (224), in third trimester of pregnancy (65), caring for a disabled spouse or child (5), being a victim of domestic violence (14), illness or incapacity (364), or second parent is a non-participant (101). Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

## Rhode Island Cash Assistance Expenditures, State Fiscal Years 1998-2016



Sources: Rhode Island Department of Human Services, *Family Independence Program 2007 annual report*. (FY 1998-2000); House Fiscal Advisory Staff. (2004-2016). Budget as enacted: Fiscal Years 2005-2017. (FY 2002-2016). Fiscal years 1996-2014 are funds spent and FY 2016 is final budget.

◆ In State Fiscal Year 2016, for the seventh year in a row, no state general revenue was allocated for cash assistance. State general revenue spending for cash assistance has decreased steadily over the past 18 years. The cash assistance program is now entirely supported by federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant funds. The total expenditures for cash assistance in Rhode Island (federal and state) decreased by 80% between 1996 (when the program began) and 2016, from \$126.5 million to \$25.5 million.<sup>22,23</sup>

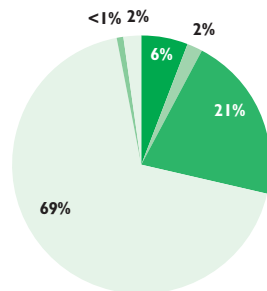
# Children in Families Receiving Cash Assistance

## Activities of Families Enrolled in the RI Works Program, December 2016

### By Type of Activity

|           |                          |
|-----------|--------------------------|
| 6% (53)   | Employed                 |
| 2% (22)   | Work Experience          |
| 21% (192) | Education/Training       |
| 69% (647) | Job Search/Job Readiness |
| <1% (2)   | Youth Success            |
| 2% (17)   | Undetermined             |

*n*=933



Source: Rhode Island Department of Human Services, RI Bridges Database, December 2016. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

◆ As of December 2016, 6% of families with work activities were employed, down from 38% in December 2007. An additional 2% were in unpaid work experience.<sup>24,25</sup> Work experience can help parents gain new skills, knowledge, and work habits to improve their employability.<sup>26</sup>

◆ Parents with very limited literacy or English-language skills can participate in basic education and work skills programs. Parents also can receive up to one year of vocational education as part of their 48-month lifetime limit.<sup>27</sup> As of December 2016, 21% of families were participating in education or training programs.<sup>28</sup>

◆ More than two-thirds (69%) of families with a work activity were participating in job search/job readiness activities, including job search and job skills development programs delivered in partnership with the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training, primarily through their netWORKri one-stop career center locations, vocational rehabilitation services delivered by the Office of Rehabilitation Services, mental health and substance abuse treatment, and housing and homelessness services needed to address barriers to employment.<sup>29,30</sup>

◆ An additional 2% of families were in an undetermined work activity or in the Youth Success Program, a program for young parents.<sup>31</sup>

## Support for Young Parents

◆ A child is nine times more likely to grow up in poverty if that child's mother gave birth as a teen, the parents were unmarried when the child was born, and the mother did not receive a high school diploma or GED.<sup>32</sup>

◆ RI Works provides additional support to young parents. Parents who are under age 20 and do not have a high school diploma or GED receive mandatory parenting skills training and are supported in completing their high school education while enrolled in RI Works. In addition, pregnant, or parenting teens under age 18 are required to live with their parent, legal guardian, or adult relative or in an adult-supervised setting if it is not possible to live at home.<sup>33</sup>

◆ In December 2016, there were 143 families with a head of household under the age of 20 enrolled in RI Works, representing 3% of the total caseload.<sup>34</sup>

## Support for Individuals with Disabilities and Their Families

◆ Nationally, more than one-quarter (27%) of cash assistance recipients have a physical, mental, or emotional problem that keeps them from working or limits the type or amount of work they can do, compared to 6% of all low-income single mothers.<sup>35</sup>

◆ Under RI Works, parents with disabilities may be exempt from work requirements only if they are receiving SSI or SSDI or determined to be eligible for SSI or SSDI. Other parents with disabilities are referred to the Office of Rehabilitation Services for further assessment, vocational rehabilitation services, and help applying for SSI.<sup>36</sup>

◆ In December 2016, 650 families (or 14% of the total RI Works caseload) had hardship extensions, 23 for a physical or mental disability, two to care for a disabled family member, four who were unable to work due to a domestic violence situation, and 621 because of economic hardship or another critical condition or circumstance.<sup>37</sup> Nationally, many families leave cash assistance not because they find work, but because they reach their time limit or are sanctioned. These families often have barriers to employment, such as a mental or physical impairment, or a child with a disability.<sup>38</sup>

# Children in Families Receiving Cash Assistance

Table 11. Children in Families Receiving Cash Assistance (RI Works), Rhode Island, December 2016

| CITY/TOWN          | # OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 | NUMBER RECEIVING CASH ASSISTANCE |          | % OF CHILDREN RECEIVING CASH ASSISTANCE |
|--------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|----------|-----------------------------------------|
|                    |                            | FAMILIES                         | CHILDREN |                                         |
| Barrington         | 4,597                      | 5                                | 7        | <1%                                     |
| Bristol            | 3,623                      | 22                               | 45       | 1%                                      |
| Burrillville       | 3,576                      | 21                               | 33       | 1%                                      |
| Central Falls      | 5,644                      | 239                              | 459      | 8%                                      |
| Charlestown        | 1,506                      | 6                                | 8        | <1%                                     |
| Coventry           | 7,770                      | 59                               | 108      | 1%                                      |
| Cranston           | 16,414                     | 202                              | 329      | 2%                                      |
| Cumberland         | 7,535                      | 65                               | 114      | 2%                                      |
| East Greenwich     | 3,436                      | 13                               | 23       | 1%                                      |
| East Providence    | 9,177                      | 121                              | 223      | 2%                                      |
| Exeter             | 1,334                      | 5                                | 11       | 1%                                      |
| Foster             | 986                        | 6                                | 10       | 1%                                      |
| Glocester          | 2,098                      | 7                                | 13       | <1%                                     |
| Hopkinton          | 1,845                      | 8                                | 14       | <1%                                     |
| Jamestown          | 1,043                      | 5                                | 10       | <1%                                     |
| Johnston           | 5,480                      | 68                               | 111      | 2%                                      |
| Lincoln            | 4,751                      | 50                               | 84       | 2%                                      |
| Little Compton     | 654                        | 2                                | 3        | <1%                                     |
| Middletown         | 3,652                      | 47                               | 82       | 2%                                      |
| Narragansett       | 2,269                      | 7                                | 15       | 1%                                      |
| New Shoreham       | 163                        | 0                                | 0        | 0%                                      |
| Newport            | 4,083                      | 161                              | 297      | 7%                                      |
| North Kingstown    | 6,322                      | 36                               | 75       | 1%                                      |
| North Providence   | 5,514                      | 63                               | 96       | 2%                                      |
| North Smithfield   | 2,456                      | 11                               | 16       | 1%                                      |
| Pawtucket          | 16,575                     | 527                              | 959      | 6%                                      |
| Portsmouth         | 3,996                      | 23                               | 28       | 1%                                      |
| Providence         | 41,634                     | 1,950                            | 3,891    | 9%                                      |
| Richmond           | 1,849                      | 4                                | 5        | <1%                                     |
| Scituate           | 2,272                      | 5                                | 9        | <1%                                     |
| Smithfield         | 3,625                      | 15                               | 22       | <1%                                     |
| South Kingstown    | 5,416                      | 24                               | 41       | <1%                                     |
| Tiverton           | 2,998                      | 33                               | 62       | 2%                                      |
| Warren             | 1,940                      | 14                               | 18       | <1%                                     |
| Warwick            | 15,825                     | 224                              | 374      | <2%                                     |
| West Greenwich     | 1,477                      | 2                                | 1        | <1%                                     |
| West Warwick       | 5,746                      | 172                              | 292      | 5%                                      |
| Westerly           | 4,787                      | 36                               | 64       | 1%                                      |
| Woonsocket         | 9,888                      | 512                              | 966      | 10%                                     |
| Other/Unknown      | NA                         | 23                               | 42       | NA                                      |
| Four Core Cities   | 73,741                     | 3,228                            | 6,275    | 9%                                      |
| Remainder of State | 150,215                    | 1,542                            | 2,643    | 2%                                      |
| Rhode Island       | 223,956                    | 4,793                            | 8,960    | 4%                                      |

## Education and Training Supporting Employment

◆ An estimated 150,000 working-age adults (ages 16 or older) in Rhode Island are not enrolled in school and have no high school diploma or have limited English-language skills. Many face both of these obstacles to success in the labor market.<sup>39</sup>

◆ By 2020, 71% of jobs in Rhode Island will require post-secondary education beyond high school.<sup>40</sup> Between 2011 and 2015, the unemployment rate for Rhode Islanders without high school diplomas was 14.6%, compared to 10.3% for those with high school degrees and 3.6% for those with a Bachelor's degree or higher.<sup>41</sup>

◆ Parents enrolled in RI Works face significant barriers to success in the labor market. Thirty-three percent of parents enrolled in RI Works report not finishing high school.<sup>42</sup> Among a recently tested group of parents receiving cash assistance, more than one-third (39%) of those tested in English tested at or below the sixth-grade reading level, while two-thirds (68%) of native Spanish speakers enrolled in RI Works tested at or below the sixth-grade reading level on a Spanish-language version of the test.<sup>43</sup>

◆ Research comparing mandatory job-search-first and mandatory education-or-training-first programs has found that the most effective approach is a mixed strategy where beneficiaries are encouraged to look for and take full-time jobs that pay above the minimum wage, offer benefits, have the potential for advancement, and also are offered high-quality, work-focused, and short-term education or training to improve their employability.<sup>44</sup> States should explore how to meet their work participation rate while offering beneficiaries a chance to improve job skills and long-term work preparedness.<sup>45</sup>

### Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Rhode Island Department of Human Services, RI Bridges Database, December 2016. The Rhode Island Department of Human Services changed the method for calculating the caseload and persons receiving cash assistance starting in the 2012 Factbook. Comparisons to data presented in previous Factbooks should be made with caution.

The denominator is the total number of children under age 18 from U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010, Summary File 1.

Communities may have more families than children receiving cash assistance because a pregnant woman without children is eligible if in the final trimester of her pregnancy.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

### References

<sup>1,2,3,5,8,16,17,18,20,21,26,30,33,36</sup> Rhode Island Department of Human Services. (2016). *Rhode Island Department of Human Services Code of Rules: RI Works Program (Policy #1400)*. Retrieved February 24, 2017, from [www.policy.dhs.ri.gov](http://www.policy.dhs.ri.gov)

(continued on page 177)

## Children Receiving SNAP Benefits

### DEFINITION

*Children receiving SNAP benefits* is the number of children under age 18 who participated in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in October 2016.

### SIGNIFICANCE

Hunger and lack of regular access to sufficient food are linked to serious physical, psychological, emotional, and academic problems in children and can interfere with their growth and development.<sup>12</sup> The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly the Food Stamp Program, helps low-income individuals and families obtain better nutrition through monthly benefits they can use to purchase food at retail stores and some farmers' markets.<sup>3</sup> Receiving SNAP benefits for at least four months has been shown to cut in half the probability of child food insecurity.<sup>4</sup>

Nationally, SNAP is available to households with gross incomes below 130% of the federal poverty level, net incomes below 100% of the federal poverty level, and no more than \$2,250 in resources.<sup>5</sup> In 2009, Rhode Island implemented expanded categorical eligibility, an option encouraged by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), which allowed Rhode Island to increase the gross income limit and remove the resource limit for most

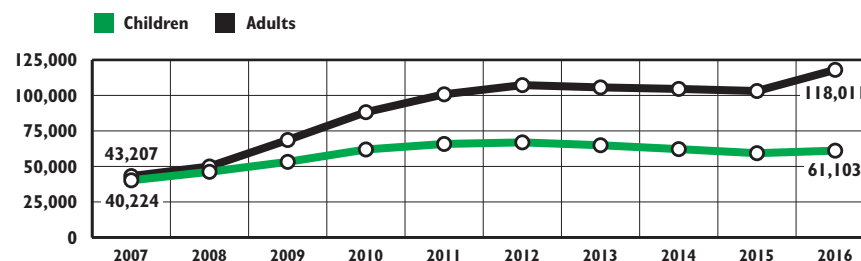
applicants.<sup>67</sup> The gross income limit for Rhode Island is now 185% of the federal poverty level (\$37,296 per year for a family of three in 2016).<sup>8,9</sup>

Households must still meet the net income limit of 100% of the federal poverty level after allowable deductions, which include deductions for housing costs and child care.<sup>10</sup>

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.<sup>11</sup> In the U.S., more than 80% of SNAP recipients have gross incomes at or below the federal poverty level (\$20,160 for a family of three in 2016) with almost all of the rest having incomes between 101% and 130% of the poverty level. About 40% of SNAP households have incomes below half of the federal poverty level (\$10,080) for a family of three in 2016).<sup>12,13</sup> In 2016, the average monthly SNAP benefit for a family of three in Rhode Island was \$373.<sup>14</sup>

Participation in SNAP has been associated with improved health outcomes among low-income or food insecure children, and has been linked to lower risk of adverse outcomes such as nutritional deficiency, hospitalization and poor nutrition.<sup>15</sup> SNAP also is a quick and effective form of economic stimulus because it moves money directly into the local economy.<sup>16</sup>

### Participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Children and Adults, Rhode Island, 2007-2016



Source: Rhode Island Department of Human Services, InRhodes Database, 2007–2016. Data represent children under age 18 and adults who participated in SNAP during the month of October.

◆ Of the 179,114 Rhode Islanders enrolled in SNAP in October 2016, 66% were adults and 34% were children. More than one-third (34%) of the children enrolled in SNAP were under the age of six.<sup>17</sup>

◆ From 2008 to 2012, the number of Rhode Islanders receiving SNAP benefits increased steadily. The number of children and adults receiving SNAP benefits then decreased slowly, until increasing in 2016.<sup>18</sup> It is possible that the recent increase is due to efforts to avoid denying eligible SNAP recipients during the difficult transition to the RI Bridges computer system.<sup>19</sup>

### Food Insecurity in Rhode Island

◆ The USDA defines food insecurity as not always having access to enough food for an active, healthy life. Between 2013 and 2015, 11.8% of Rhode Island households and 13.7% of U.S. households were food insecure. In 2015, 16.6% of all U.S. households with children were food insecure, while 42.9% of U.S. households with children with incomes below the poverty level experienced food insecurity.<sup>20</sup>

◆ Five federal nutrition programs provide nutrition assistance to children and families, including SNAP, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), the National School Lunch Program, the National School Breakfast Program, and the Summer Food Service Program.<sup>21</sup> In 2016, food pantries and soup kitchens provided emergency food assistance to an average of 59,000 Rhode Islanders each month who needed additional help to meet their nutritional needs.<sup>22</sup>

# Children Receiving SNAP Benefits

Table 12. Children Under Age 18 Receiving SNAP Benefits, Rhode Island, October 2016

## SNAP Participation in Rhode Island

◆ Over the past decade, Rhode Island has implemented a number of strategies to improve access to SNAP benefits, including implementing “expanded categorical eligibility” so more families qualify, developing an online SNAP application, conducting telephone interviews so applicants do not need to apply in person, requiring less frequent recertification, and implementing same-day SNAP processing when possible.<sup>23,24,25,26</sup>

◆ Rhode Island could increase access to SNAP benefits for children and families by ensuring adequate staffing in field offices, reducing wait times, allowing for a variety of application processes (i.e., internet, phone, in person), reducing documentation requirements, simplifying renewal processes, improving communications with clients and community partners, providing additional staff training, and seeking recommendations for system improvements from line staff.<sup>27,28</sup>

| CITY/TOWN          | NUMBER PARTICIPATING IN 2016 |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Barrington         | 109                          |
| Bristol            | 421                          |
| Burrillville       | 424                          |
| Central Falls      | 3,441                        |
| Charlestown        | 175                          |
| Coventry           | 963                          |
| Cranston           | 3,242                        |
| Cumberland         | 813                          |
| East Greenwich     | 212                          |
| East Providence    | 1,983                        |
| Exeter             | 79                           |
| Foster             | 107                          |
| Glocester          | 121                          |
| Hopkinton          | 198                          |
| Jamestown          | 46                           |
| Johnston           | 1,022                        |
| Lincoln            | 687                          |
| Little Compton     | 44                           |
| Middletown         | 495                          |
| Narragansett       | 202                          |
| New Shoreham       | 9                            |
| Newport            | 1,522                        |
| North Kingstown    | 865                          |
| North Providence   | 1,161                        |
| North Smithfield   | 206                          |
| Pawtucket          | 7,174                        |
| Portsmouth         | 249                          |
| Providence         | 22,823                       |
| Richmond           | 63                           |
| Scituate           | 171                          |
| Smithfield         | 238                          |
| South Kingstown    | 575                          |
| Tiverton           | 419                          |
| Warren             | 352                          |
| Warwick            | 2,594                        |
| West Greenwich     | 70                           |
| West Warwick       | 1,823                        |
| Westerly           | 878                          |
| Woonsocket         | 4,998                        |
| Unknown            | 129                          |
| Four Core Cities   | 38,436                       |
| Remainder of State | 22,538                       |
| Rhode Island       | 61,103                       |

### Note to Table

In 2008, the Food Stamp Program was renamed the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

### Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) data are from the Rhode Island Department of Human Services, RI Bridges Database, October 2016.

Due to changes in the availability of data, we report participation for the entire month of October, rather than October 1 in this Factbook. Due to this change in methodology, *Children Receiving SNAP Benefits* cannot be compared with prior Factbooks.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

### References

- <sup>1</sup> Hickson, M., Ettinger de Cuba, S., Weiss, I., Donofrio, G., & Cook, J. (2013). *Too hungry to learn: Food insecurity and school readiness*. Boston, MA: Children's Health Watch.
- <sup>2</sup> Perez-Escamilla, R. & Pinheiro de Toledo Vianna, R. (2012). Food insecurity and the behavioral and intellectual development of children: A review of the evidence. *Journal of Applied Research on Children*, 3(1), 1-15.
- <sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service. (2017). *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)*. Retrieved March 7, 2017, from www.fns.usda.gov
- <sup>4</sup> Carlson, S., Rosenbaum, D., Keith-Jennings, B., & Nehako, C. (2016). *SNAP works for America's children*. Washington, DC: Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.
- <sup>5</sup> U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service. (2017). *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program: Eligibility*. Retrieved February 23, 2017, from www.fns.usda.gov
- <sup>6</sup> *Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) 2009-2012 accomplishments*. (n.d.). Cranston, RI: Rhode Island Department of Human Services.
- <sup>7</sup> U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service. (2009). *Improving access to SNAP through broad-based categorical eligibility. Memorandum to regional administrators*. Retrieved February 22, 2017, from www.fns.usda.gov

(continued on page 177)

# Women and Children Participating in WIC

## DEFINITION

*Women and children participating in WIC* is the percentage of eligible women, infants, and children enrolled in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC).

## SIGNIFICANCE

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) is a federally-funded preventive program that provides participants with nutritious food, nutrition education, and access to health care and social services. WIC serves pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, infants, and children under five years of age with household incomes at or below 185% of the federal poverty level. Any individual who participates in SNAP (formerly the Food Stamp Program), RIte Care, Medicaid, or Rhode Island Works, or is a member of a family in which a pregnant woman or an infant receives Medicaid benefits, is automatically income-eligible for WIC. Participants also must have a specified nutritional risk, such as anemia, high-risk pregnancy, or abnormal growth, or be in need of supplemental food to qualify.<sup>12</sup>

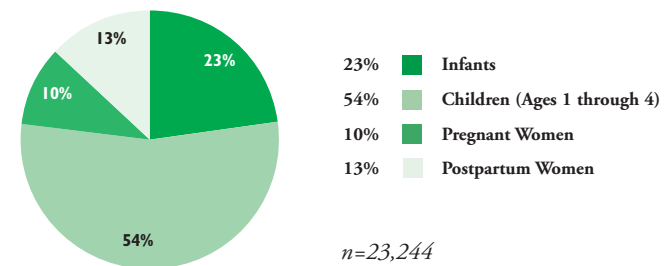
Compared to children who receive WIC benefits, young children who are eligible for WIC but not participating are more likely to be in poor health, at

risk for developmental delays, underweight, short for their age, and/or experience food insecurity (i.e., live in families that do not always have enough food for an active healthy life).<sup>3</sup> Food insecurity in early childhood can lead to impaired cognitive, behavioral, and psychosocial development, and can limit academic achievement.<sup>4</sup> Pregnant women also have special nutritional needs that influence pregnancy outcomes and the health of their children.<sup>5</sup>

WIC participation has been shown to reduce infant mortality, improve birth outcomes (including reducing the likelihood of low birthweight and prematurity), enhance maternal and child dietary intake, reduce child abuse and neglect risk, improve child growth rates, boost cognitive development, and increase the likelihood of having a regular source of medical care.<sup>6,7</sup>

Recent revisions to the WIC food package have increased access to a wider variety of nutritious foods and strengthened breastfeeding support.<sup>8</sup> WIC consistently promotes breastfeeding as the optimal method of infant feeding.<sup>9</sup> Seventy-six percent of mothers participating in WIC in Rhode Island in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2016 initiated breastfeeding. Eighteen percent of infants participating in WIC were breastfed at three months of age and 10% were breastfed at six months of age.<sup>10</sup>

**Women, Infants, and Children Enrolled in WIC, Rhode Island, September 2016**



Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, WIC Program, September 2016.

- ◆ **Infants and children ages one through four comprised more than three-quarters (77%) of the population being served by WIC in September 2016 in Rhode Island. Women accounted for over one-fifth (10% pregnant and 13% postpartum) of the population being served.**<sup>11</sup>
- ◆ **In September 2016, 70% of WIC participants in Rhode Island were White, 16% were Black or African-American, 3% were Asian, and 10% identified as other races or more than one race. Forty-eight percent of WIC participants identified as Hispanic or Latino. Hispanics are included in the racial groups above.**<sup>12</sup>
- ◆ **The four core cities - Central Falls (65%), Pawtucket (56%), Providence (63%), and Woonsocket (57%) - had WIC participation rates exceeding the statewide enrollment rate of 54% in 2016, but there are thousands of eligible families who are not enrolled.**<sup>13</sup>
- ◆ **WIC is not an entitlement program. Congress determines funding annually and WIC is not funded at a level that is sufficient to serve all eligible women and children in Rhode Island.**<sup>14,15</sup> Rhode Island received \$23.3 million in federal WIC funding during FFY 2016.<sup>16</sup>
- ◆ **The WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) improves participants' intake of fresh fruits and vegetables by enabling participants to purchase produce at authorized local farmers' markets using WIC benefits.**<sup>17</sup> In Rhode Island, 29 farmers' markets provided fresh produce to 12,690 WIC participants during the FMNP in FFY 2016.<sup>18</sup>

# Women and Children Participating in WIC

Table 13. Women, Infants and Children Enrolled in WIC, Rhode Island, September 2016

| CITY/TOWN          | ESTIMATED NUMBER ELIGIBLE | NUMBER PARTICIPATING | % OF ELIGIBLE PARTICIPATING |
|--------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Barrington         | 148                       | 41                   | 28%                         |
| Bristol            | 435                       | 191                  | 44%                         |
| Burrillville       | 416                       | 186                  | 45%                         |
| Central Falls      | 2,046                     | 1,322                | 65%                         |
| Charlestown        | 133                       | 59                   | 44%                         |
| Coventry           | 775                       | 372                  | 48%                         |
| Cranston           | 2,667                     | 1,508                | 57%                         |
| Cumberland         | 651                       | 233                  | 36%                         |
| East Greenwich     | 150                       | 49                   | 33%                         |
| East Providence    | 1,551                     | 729                  | 47%                         |
| Exeter             | 116                       | 41                   | 35%                         |
| Foster             | 116                       | 27                   | 23%                         |
| Glocester          | 142                       | 43                   | 30%                         |
| Hopkinton          | 222                       | 67                   | 30%                         |
| Jamestown          | 33                        | 5                    | 15%                         |
| Johnston           | 896                       | 421                  | 47%                         |
| Lincoln            | 507                       | 249                  | 49%                         |
| Little Compton     | 51                        | 12                   | 24%                         |
| Middletown         | 396                       | 193                  | 49%                         |
| Narragansett       | 170                       | 70                   | 41%                         |
| New Shoreham       | 44                        | 5                    | 11%                         |
| Newport            | 923                       | 527                  | 57%                         |
| North Kingstown    | 632                       | 244                  | 39%                         |
| North Providence   | 1,007                     | 487                  | 48%                         |
| North Smithfield   | 223                       | 94                   | 42%                         |
| Pawtucket          | 4,838                     | 2,718                | 56%                         |
| Portsmouth         | 258                       | 110                  | 43%                         |
| Providence         | 14,135                    | 8,897                | 63%                         |
| Richmond           | 96                        | 90                   | 94%                         |
| Scituate           | 193                       | 49                   | 25%                         |
| Smithfield         | 308                       | 96                   | 31%                         |
| South Kingstown    | 511                       | 176                  | 34%                         |
| Tiverton           | 341                       | 143                  | 42%                         |
| Warren             | 300                       | 122                  | 41%                         |
| Warwick            | 2,169                     | 877                  | 40%                         |
| West Greenwich     | 83                        | 53                   | 64%                         |
| West Warwick       | 1,403                     | 598                  | 43%                         |
| Westerly           | 710                       | 339                  | 48%                         |
| Woonsocket         | 3,156                     | 1,801                | 57%                         |
| Four Core Cities   | 24,175                    | 14,738               | 61%                         |
| Remainder of State | 18,776                    | 8,506                | 45%                         |
| Rhode Island       | 42,951                    | 23,244               | 54%                         |

## Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Rhode Island Department of Health, WIC Program, September 30, 2016.

Note: WIC participation rates in this Factbook can be compared to all Factbooks, with the exception of the 2011 Factbook, which used a July rather than September 30 reference date. Additionally, since 2007, the “estimated number eligible” is based on calculations done by the Rhode Island Department of Health to determine the number of pregnant and postpartum women, infants, and children under age five who live in families with an income less than 185% of the federal poverty level. In previous years, the “estimated number eligible” was based on 2000 Census data (2005 and 2006 Factbooks) and 1990 Census data (all Factbooks prior to 2005).

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

## References

- <sup>114</sup> Food Research & Action Center. (n.d.). *Child nutrition fact sheet: Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)*. Retrieved January 31, 2017, from [www.frac.org](http://www.frac.org)
- <sup>215</sup> U.S. Department of Agriculture. (n.d.). *The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC Program)*. Retrieved January 31, 2017, from [www.fns.usda.gov](http://www.fns.usda.gov)
- <sup>3</sup> *Children's HealthWatch policy action brief: Federal programs that protect young children's health*. (2011). Boston, MA: Children's HealthWatch.
- <sup>4</sup> *Food insecurity*. (2016). Washington, DC: Child Trends.
- <sup>5</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office on Women's Health. (2017). *Pregnancy: Staying healthy and safe*. Retrieved January 31, 2017, from [www.womenshealth.gov](http://www.womenshealth.gov)
- <sup>69</sup> U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service. (2013). *About WIC-How WIC helps*. Retrieved January 31, 2017, from [www.fns.usda.gov](http://www.fns.usda.gov)
- <sup>7</sup> Fortson, B. L., Klevens, J., Merrick, M. T., Gilbert, L. K., & Alexander, S. P. (2016). *Preventing child abuse and neglect: A technical package for policy, norm, and programmatic activities*. Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

(continued on page 177)

# Children Participating in School Breakfast

## DEFINITION

*Children participating in school breakfast* is the percentage of low-income children who participate in the School Breakfast Program. Children are counted as low-income if they are eligible for and enrolled in the Free or Reduced-Price Lunch Program.

## SIGNIFICANCE

The School Breakfast Program helps ensure that the nation's most vulnerable children start their day off with a healthy meal. During the 2015-2016 school year, 12.1 million low-income children in the U.S. participating in the School Breakfast Program ate breakfast at school each day, continuing a pattern of steady year-over-year growth in student participation over the past decade.<sup>1</sup> The School Breakfast Program offers nutritious meals, which together with school lunches, make up a large proportion of the daily dietary intake of participating children.<sup>2</sup> The School Breakfast Program helps schools support academic success and improved attendance, behavior and health, including reduced obesity rates.<sup>3</sup>

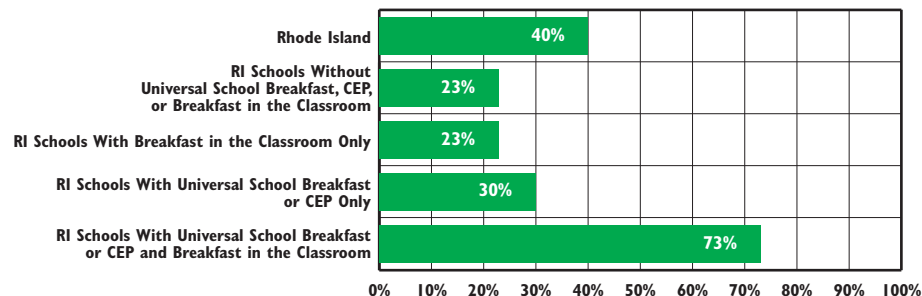
Food-insecure families often do not have sufficient food to provide nutritious breakfasts every morning, and children in these families are at risk of falling behind their peers physically, cognitively, academically, emotionally, and socially. Children who are

undernourished are more likely to have poorer cognitive functioning when they miss breakfast. They are more likely to have behavior, emotional, and academic problems, more likely to repeat a grade, and more likely to be suspended.<sup>4,5</sup> Nationally, kindergarteners in households experiencing food insecurity are more likely to be chronically absent than their peers in food-secure households.<sup>6</sup>

Rhode Island law requires that all public schools make breakfasts and lunches available to all students, including students who qualify for free or reduced-price meals based on their income (less than 130% of the federal poverty level for free meals and between 130% and 185% of the federal poverty level for reduced-price meals).<sup>7,8</sup>

During the 2015-2016 school year in Rhode Island, 51 low-income students participated in the School Breakfast Program for every 100 low-income students who participated in the School Lunch Program. Rhode Island ranks 33rd in the U.S. for participation in the School Breakfast Program, down from 30th last year. If Rhode Island increased low-income student participation in the School Breakfast Program from 50% to 70% of School Lunch Program participation, the state would receive \$2.8 million in additional federal funds to support the School Breakfast Program.<sup>9</sup>

**Low-Income Children Participating in the School Breakfast Program, Rhode Island, October 2016**



Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, Office of School Food Services, Office of Statewide Efficiencies, October 2016.

- ◆ **Universal School Breakfast Programs, which provide free breakfast to all children regardless of income, increase school breakfast participation by removing the stigma often associated with school breakfast and can reduce the administrative burden for schools.<sup>10,11</sup> The federal Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) allows schools and districts with 40% or more students identified as low-income or at-risk (i.e., homeless or in foster care) to provide free meals to all students and offers higher reimbursements. During the 2015-2016 school year, ten of the 96 eligible schools in Rhode Island were using CEP.<sup>12</sup> During the 2016-2017 school year, all schools in Central Falls, Cranston, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket, selected schools in three other districts, ten charter schools, and the Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center and Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program offered universal school breakfast or CEP.<sup>13</sup>**
- ◆ **Making breakfast part of the school day is another proven strategy for increasing breakfast participation, reducing stigma, and increasing convenience. Some states have passed legislation requiring "breakfast after the bell."<sup>14,15</sup> During the 2016-2017 school year, several Rhode Island districts offered breakfast in the classroom, "grab and go" breakfasts, bagged breakfasts, or breakfast on a cart in all or some of their schools.<sup>16</sup>**
- ◆ **During the summer, many low-income children lose access to the free and reduced-price meals they rely on during the school year. In Rhode Island, 20% of the children who participated in the School Lunch Program during the 2014-2015 school year participated in the 2015 Summer Nutrition Programs. During July 2015, 193,940 lunches were served through Summer Nutrition Programs, an 18% increase over the previous year.<sup>17</sup>**

# Children Participating in School Breakfast

Table 14.

## Children Participating in School Breakfast, Rhode Island, October 2016

| SCHOOL DISTRICT               | OCTOBER 2016 ENROLLMENT | ESTIMATED AVERAGE DAILY PARTICIPATION IN BREAKFAST | % OF ALL CHILDREN PARTICIPATING IN BREAKFAST | # OF LOW-INCOME STUDENTS | ESTIMATED LOW-INCOME AVERAGE DAILY PARTICIPATION IN BREAKFAST | % OF ALL LOW-INCOME CHILDREN PARTICIPATING IN SCHOOL BREAKFAST |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Barrington                    | 3,355                   | 42                                                 | 1%                                           | 196                      | 16                                                            | 8%                                                             |
| Bristol Warren                | 3,218                   | 206                                                | 6%                                           | 1,048                    | 164                                                           | 16%                                                            |
| Burrillville                  | 2,341                   | 144                                                | 6%                                           | 789                      | 112                                                           | 14%                                                            |
| Central Falls**               | 2,589                   | 1,419                                              | 55%                                          | 2,105                    | 1,419                                                         | 67%                                                            |
| Charlho                       | 3,270                   | 270                                                | 8%                                           | 612                      | 175                                                           | 29%                                                            |
| Coventry                      | 4,713                   | 443                                                | 9%                                           | 1,546                    | 364                                                           | 24%                                                            |
| Cranston**                    | 10,415                  | 2,689                                              | 26%                                          | 3,859                    | 1,654                                                         | 43%                                                            |
| Cumberland                    | 4,568                   | 448                                                | 10%                                          | 1,033                    | 325                                                           | 31%                                                            |
| East Greenwich                | 2,504                   | 59                                                 | 2%                                           | 146                      | 39                                                            | 27%                                                            |
| East Providence               | 5,238                   | 1,166                                              | 22%                                          | 2,909                    | 820                                                           | 28%                                                            |
| Exeter-West Greenwich         | 1,654                   | 85                                                 | 5%                                           | 219                      | 47                                                            | 21%                                                            |
| Foster                        | 265                     | 22                                                 | 8%                                           | 49                       | *                                                             | 18%                                                            |
| Foster-Glocester              | 1,147                   | 69                                                 | 6%                                           | 193                      | 37                                                            | 19%                                                            |
| Glocester                     | 547                     | 44                                                 | 8%                                           | 72                       | 27                                                            | 38%                                                            |
| Jamestown                     | 488                     | 22                                                 | 5%                                           | 50                       | 11                                                            | 22%                                                            |
| Johnston                      | 3,190                   | 351                                                | 11%                                          | 1,503                    | 291                                                           | 19%                                                            |
| Lincoln                       | 3,002                   | 244                                                | 8%                                           | 758                      | 209                                                           | 28%                                                            |
| Little Compton                | 246                     | 0                                                  | <1%                                          | 29                       | 0                                                             | <1%                                                            |
| Middletown                    | 2,191                   | 162                                                | 7%                                           | 719                      | 131                                                           | 18%                                                            |
| Narragansett                  | 1,326                   | 86                                                 | 6%                                           | 259                      | 56                                                            | 22%                                                            |
| New Shoreham                  | 120                     | 18                                                 | 15%                                          | 21                       | 11                                                            | 52%                                                            |
| Newport                       | 2,198                   | 399                                                | 18%                                          | 1,430                    | 381                                                           | 27%                                                            |
| North Kingstown               | 4,047                   | 338                                                | 8%                                           | 885                      | 273                                                           | 31%                                                            |
| North Providence              | 3,493                   | 614                                                | 18%                                          | 1,483                    | 373                                                           | 26%                                                            |
| North Smithfield              | 1,707                   | 90                                                 | 5%                                           | 294                      | 57                                                            | 19%                                                            |
| Pawtucket**                   | 8,984                   | 2,165                                              | 24%                                          | 6,234                    | 1,744                                                         | 28%                                                            |
| Portsmouth                    | 2,464                   | 95                                                 | 4%                                           | 348                      | 57                                                            | 16%                                                            |
| Providence**                  | 23,983                  | 12,710                                             | 53%                                          | 20,719                   | 11,915                                                        | 58%                                                            |
| Scituate                      | 1,305                   | 36                                                 | 3%                                           | 232                      | 23                                                            | 10%                                                            |
| Smithfield                    | 2,384                   | 93                                                 | 4%                                           | 337                      | 50                                                            | 15%                                                            |
| South Kingstown               | 3,111                   | 183                                                | 6%                                           | 524                      | 160                                                           | 31%                                                            |
| Tiverton                      | 1,841                   | 107                                                | 6%                                           | 583                      | 83                                                            | 14%                                                            |
| Warwick                       | 9,124                   | 591                                                | 6%                                           | 3,394                    | 481                                                           | 14%                                                            |
| West Warwick                  | 3,474                   | 546                                                | 16%                                          | 1,693                    | 480                                                           | 28%                                                            |
| Westerly                      | 2,865                   | 336                                                | 12%                                          | 935                      | 296                                                           | 32%                                                            |
| Woonsocket**                  | 5,863                   | 2,614                                              | 45%                                          | 4,268                    | 2,116                                                         | 50%                                                            |
| <i>Charter Schools</i>        | <i>7,024</i>            | <i>3,114</i>                                       | <i>44%</i>                                   | <i>4,726</i>             | <i>2,338</i>                                                  | <i>49%</i>                                                     |
| <i>State-Operated Schools</i> | <i>1,746</i>            | <i>380</i>                                         | <i>22%</i>                                   | <i>1,188</i>             | <i>350</i>                                                    | <i>25%</i>                                                     |
| <i>UCAP</i>                   | <i>142</i>              | <i>106</i>                                         | <i>75%</i>                                   | <i>135</i>               | <i>135</i>                                                    | <i>100%</i>                                                    |
| <i>Four Core Cities</i>       | <i>41,419</i>           | <i>18,907</i>                                      | <i>46%</i>                                   | <i>33,326</i>            | <i>17,193</i>                                                 | <i>52%</i>                                                     |
| <i>Remainder of State</i>     | <i>91,811</i>           | <i>9,998</i>                                       | <i>11%</i>                                   | <i>28,148</i>            | <i>7,212</i>                                                  | <i>26%</i>                                                     |
| <i>Rhode Island</i>           | <i>142,142</i>          | <i>32,505</i>                                      | <i>23%</i>                                   | <i>67,523</i>            | <i>27,228</i>                                                 | <i>40%</i>                                                     |

### Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Rhode Island Department of Education, October 2016.

\*Fewer than 10 students are in this category. Actual numbers are not shown to protect student confidentiality. These students are still counted in district totals and in the four core cities, remainder of the state, and state totals.

\*\*These districts offer Universal School Breakfast or participate in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) in all of their schools.

Charter schools include: Achievement First Rhode Island, Beacon Charter High School for the Arts, Blackstone Academy, Blackstone Valley Prep, The Compass School, Paul Cuffee Charter School, The Greene School, Highlander Charter School, Hope Academy, International Charter School, Kingston Hill Academy, The Learning Community, RI Nurses Institute Middle College Charter School, RISE Prep Mayoral Academy, Segue Institute for Learning, Sheila C. "Skip" Nowell Leadership Academy, South Side Elementary Charter School, Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts, and The Village Green Virtual Charter School. State-operated schools include William M. Davies Jr. Career & Technical High School, the Rhode Island School for the Deaf, and Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

The October 2016 enrollment and number of low-income students come from RIDE's official October 1 enrollment census. Data are not comparable to Factbooks prior to 2011.

"Estimated Average Daily Participation in Breakfast" is the average number of students who ate breakfast in school per school day during October 2016. "Estimated Low-Income Average Daily Participation in Breakfast" is the average number of students eligible for and enrolled in free or reduced-price meals who ate breakfast in school per school day during October 2016.

Children are counted as low-income if they are eligible for a Free or Reduced-Price Lunch Program. To participate in the Reduced-Price Breakfast Program, students' household income must fall between 130% and 185% of the federal poverty guideline. For the Free Breakfast Program, household income must fall below 130% of the federal poverty guideline. Children in foster care, households receiving SNAP benefits and households participating in the Rhode Island Works Program are automatically eligible for free meals.

References are on page 177.

# Health

# Children's Health Insurance

## DEFINITION

Children's health insurance is the percentage of children under age 19 who were covered by any kind of private or public health insurance, including Medicaid.

## SIGNIFICANCE

Children who have health insurance coverage are healthier and have fewer preventable hospitalizations than those who are uninsured. Insured children are more likely to receive preventive medical and dental care, be screened for the achievement of developmental milestones, obtain needed timely treatment, have access to prescription medications, and miss fewer days of school.<sup>1,2</sup> Children are more likely to be insured if their parents also have health insurance (especially continuous coverage).<sup>3,4</sup>

Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) provide low-income children with affordable, comprehensive health benefits, which have been shown to increase access to primary and preventive care for children and improve long-term health, education, and economic outcomes.<sup>5,6</sup>

RIte Care/RIte Share, Rhode Island's Medicaid/CHIP managed care health insurance program, is available to children and families who qualify based on family income. RIte Care also serves

as the health care delivery system for specific groups of children who qualify for Medical Assistance based on a disability or because they are in foster care or receiving an adoption subsidy.

On December 31, 2016, 71% of RIte Care members who qualified based on family income were children under age 19. There were 54,331 low-income parents with RIte Care coverage on December 31, 2016.<sup>7,8</sup> RIte Care managed care enrollment rose to a new high of 149,080 in December 2016 (up from 141,901 in December 2015).<sup>9,10</sup>

Rhode Island children who are older children, living in urban communities, or are Black, Hispanic, or Native American are the most likely to be uninsured. In 2015, an estimated 3.4% of Rhode Island children were uninsured.<sup>11,12,13,14</sup>

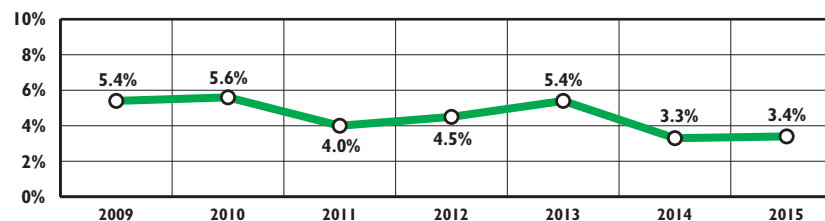
| Children Without Health Insurance |      |      |
|-----------------------------------|------|------|
|                                   | 2009 | 2015 |
| RI                                | 5.4% | 3.4% |
| US                                | 8.6% | 4.8% |
| National Rank*                    |      | 15th |
| New England Rank**                |      | 5th  |

\*1st is best; 50th is worst

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

Source: For 2015: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015. Table R2702. For 2009: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012. Table CP03.

Children Without Health Insurance, Rhode Island, 2009-2015



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2013 & 2015. Table CP03. Data are for children under 18 years of age and are not comparable to Factbooks prior to 2015.

- ◆ In 2015, 3.4% of Rhode Island's children under age 18 were uninsured. Rhode Island ranks fifteenth best in the U.S., with 96.6% of children having health insurance. Just over half (58%) of Rhode Island children are covered by private health insurance, most of which is obtained through their parents' employers.<sup>15,16</sup>
- ◆ Approximately 74% (6,532) of the estimated 8,809 uninsured children under age 18 in Rhode Island between 2011 and 2015 were eligible for RIte Care coverage based on their family incomes, but were not enrolled. An estimated 2,277 uninsured children lived in families with incomes above 261% of the federal poverty level (the income limit for RIte Care eligibility) and 57% (1,292) of them may have been eligible for financial assistance through HealthSource RI based on income.<sup>17,18</sup>
- ◆ The RIte Share premium assistance program helps low-income families afford the cost of employer-sponsored coverage. As of December 31, 2016, 5,643 children and 2,395 parents (8,038 total) were enrolled in RIte Share.<sup>19</sup>
- ◆ Between 2014 and 2015, the estimated percentage of children covered exclusively by their parents' employer-sponsored health plan increased from 51% to 53% and the percentage of children insured exclusively by Medicaid/RIte Care decreased from 33% to 30%.<sup>20</sup>
- ◆ Children and families in need of health insurance can enroll in coverage through HealthSource RI, Rhode Island's health insurance marketplace under the federal *Affordable Care Act*. As of October 2016, 1,877 children were enrolled in commercial coverage in the individual market of HealthSource RI, which is a 14% increase from 2015 (1,651).<sup>21</sup>

Table 15. Children Under Age 19 Receiving Medical Assistance, Rhode Island, December 31, 2016

| CITY/TOWN          | RITE CARE | SSI   | KATIE BECKETT PROVISION | ADOPTION SUBSIDY | FOSTER CARE | TOTAL   |
|--------------------|-----------|-------|-------------------------|------------------|-------------|---------|
| Barrington         | 479       | 14    | 34                      | 25               | 15          | 567     |
| Bristol            | 1,048     | 31    | 17                      | 44               | 12          | 1,152   |
| Burrillville       | 1,399     | 62    | 24                      | 84               | 28          | 1,597   |
| Central Falls      | 4,974     | 275   | 4                       | 39               | 38          | 5,330   |
| Charlestown        | 419       | 11    | 10                      | 13               | 10          | 463     |
| Coventry           | 2,098     | 77    | 51                      | 145              | 62          | 2,433   |
| Cranston           | 6,936     | 240   | 77                      | 199              | 116         | 7,568   |
| Cumberland         | 1,774     | 87    | 50                      | 65               | 34          | 2,010   |
| East Greenwich     | 444       | 24    | 36                      | 32               | 17          | 553     |
| East Providence    | 3,914     | 168   | 44                      | 114              | 78          | 4,318   |
| Exeter             | 252       | 9     | 6                       | 19               | 9           | 295     |
| Foster             | 285       | 11    | 6                       | 13               | 15          | 330     |
| Glocester          | 359       | 17    | 6                       | 41               | 36          | 459     |
| Hopkinton          | 558       | 8     | 9                       | 34               | 13          | 622     |
| Jamestown          | 121       | 5     | 8                       | 4                | 2           | 140     |
| Johnston           | 2,246     | 97    | 41                      | 68               | 38          | 2,490   |
| Lincoln            | 1,036     | 29    | 24                      | 53               | 23          | 1,165   |
| Little Compton     | 145       | 4     | 4                       | 2                | 1           | 156     |
| Middletown         | 1,040     | 31    | 20                      | 34               | 25          | 1,150   |
| Narragansett       | 438       | 27    | 11                      | 25               | 34          | 535     |
| New Shoreham       | 64        | 0     | 2                       | 0                | 0           | 66      |
| Newport            | 2,134     | 118   | 4                       | 43               | 39          | 2,338   |
| North Kingstown    | 1,625     | 47    | 38                      | 49               | 48          | 1,807   |
| North Providence   | 2,391     | 89    | 25                      | 66               | 54          | 2,625   |
| North Smithfield   | 507       | 25    | 13                      | 42               | 28          | 615     |
| Pawtucket          | 11,717    | 547   | 38                      | 163              | 165         | 12,630  |
| Portsmouth         | 674       | 22    | 16                      | 33               | 29          | 774     |
| Providence         | 33,916    | 1,734 | 51                      | 423              | 571         | 36,695  |
| Richmond           | 281       | 8     | 4                       | 5                | 8           | 306     |
| Scituate           | 521       | 17    | 20                      | 38               | 12          | 608     |
| Smithfield         | 690       | 21    | 26                      | 40               | 30          | 807     |
| South Kingstown    | 1,242     | 49    | 33                      | 57               | 27          | 1,408   |
| Tiverton           | 895       | 28    | 13                      | 28               | 16          | 980     |
| Warren             | 784       | 31    | 10                      | 32               | 33          | 890     |
| Warwick            | 5,037     | 201   | 107                     | 243              | 108         | 5,696   |
| West Greenwich     | 233       | 1     | 11                      | 22               | 5           | 272     |
| West Warwick       | 3,002     | 144   | 16                      | 82               | 55          | 3,299   |
| Westerly           | 1,914     | 73    | 22                      | 46               | 30          | 2,085   |
| Woonsocket         | 7,086     | 526   | 29                      | 155              | 104         | 7,900   |
| Unknown Residence  | 605       | 53    | 1                       | 55               | 51          | 765     |
| Four Core Cities   | 57,693    | 3,082 | 122                     | 780              | 878         | 62,555  |
| Remainder of State | 46,985    | 1,826 | 838                     | 1,840            | 1,090       | 52,579  |
| Rhode Island       | 105,283   | 4,961 | 961                     | 2,675            | 2,019       | 115,899 |

### Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services, MMIS Database, December 31, 2016.

The table includes children enrolled in RItE Care managed care, fee-for-service, and RItE Share as of December 31, 2016. Children with special health care needs who are covered through RItE Care or Medical Assistance are also included because they receive SSI, adoption subsidies, or qualify for the Katie Beckett provision.

Data for 2016 should be interpreted with caution. In September 2016, the state of Rhode Island instituted a new integrated eligibility determination system (Unified Health Infrastructure Project/UHIP), which may have affected data counts for RItE Care, Katie Beckett, and other Medicaid coverage through HealthSourceRI.

The RItE Care numbers include children who are also enrolled in RI Works. Prior to the 2015 Factbook, children enrolled in both RItE Care and RI Works were reported separately. Due to eligibility system changes and enrollment changes to RI Works and RItE Care, these data are no longer able to be reported.

The Providence numbers include some children in substitute care who live in other towns because the Medicaid database lists some foster children as Providence residents for administrative purposes.

Unknown residence: All children are Rhode Island residents, but specific city/town information was unavailable.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

Beginning with the 2015 Factbook, the children without health insurance trend line is based on U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS) data due to changes in survey protocol and methodology with the Current Population Survey (CPS). Trend data reported prior to 2015 Factbook are not comparable.

### References

<sup>1</sup> *America's uninsured crisis: Consequences for health and health care.* (2009). Washington, DC: National Academies Press, Institute of Medicine.

(continued on page 178)

# Childhood Immunizations

## DEFINITION

*Childhood immunizations* is the percentage of children ages 19 months to 35 months who have received the entire 4:3:1:3:3:1:4 series of vaccinations as recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP). In 2015, the complete series included 4 doses of diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (DTaP); 3 doses of polio; 1 dose of measles, mumps, rubella (MMR); 3-4 doses of Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib); 3 doses of hepatitis B vaccines; 1 dose of varicella (chickenpox); and 4 doses of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV).

## SIGNIFICANCE

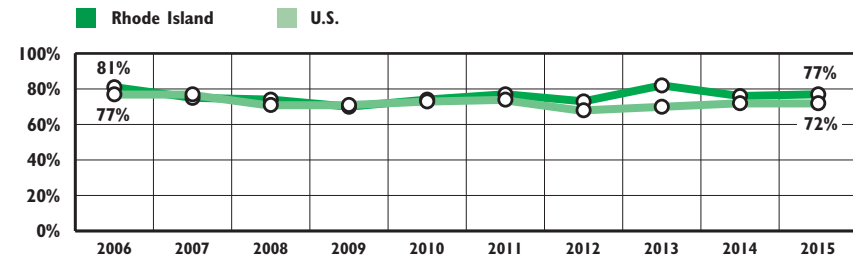
Timely and complete immunization protects children against a number of infectious diseases that were once common and resulted in death or disability. Vaccines interact with the immune system to produce antibodies that protect the body if it is later exposed to disease. The benefits of immunization include improved quality of life and productivity, reduced health spending, and prevention of illness and death. Society benefits from high vaccination levels because disease outbreaks are minimized. Although many of the diseases against which children are vaccinated are rare, it is important to continue to immunize against them until the diseases are completely eradicated.<sup>1,2,3</sup>

The federal Vaccines for Children program is used to eliminate cost as a barrier to vaccination. It allows states to obtain vaccines at a discounted price. Local providers then administer the vaccines at no cost to eligible children under age 19, including those who are uninsured, underinsured, or Medicaid-eligible.<sup>4</sup> Due to the federal *Affordable Care Act (ACA)*, children and individuals enrolled in new health insurance plans now have access to recommended vaccines without deductibles or copays, when delivered by an in-network provider.<sup>5</sup>

Rhode Island obtains vaccines for all children and distributes them to health care providers. In order to ensure that vaccines reach all children, the Rhode Island Department of Health works in partnership with local health care providers to maintain and share KIDSNET immunization data for children from birth to age 18.<sup>6</sup>

Rhode Island requires vaccination against the following diseases prior to entry into child care, preschool, Head Start, or Kindergarten: diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis; Haemophilus influenzae type b; hepatitis A; hepatitis B; influenza; measles, mumps, and rubella; pneumococcal conjugate; polio; rotavirus; and varicella (chickenpox). Kindergarten entry requires all of these except hepatitis A, Haemophilus influenzae type b, influenza, pneumococcal conjugate, and rotavirus.<sup>7,8</sup>

Fully Immunized Children\*, Ages 19 Months to 35 Months, Rhode Island and United States, 2006-2015

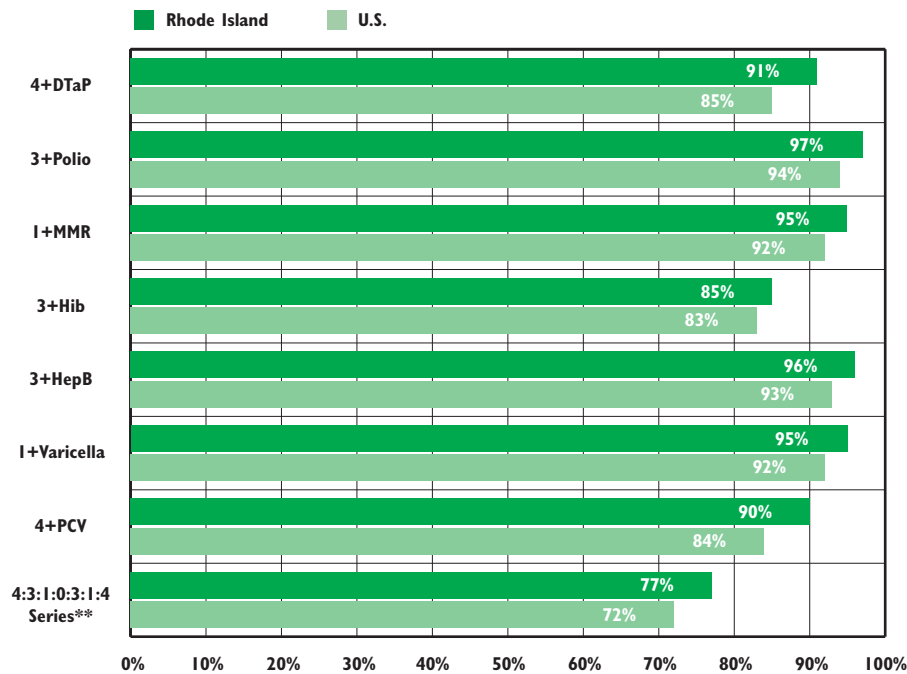


\*Fully immunized children received the 4:3:1:3:3:1 series from 2006 to 2007; the 4:3:1:0:3:1:4 series in 2008 to 2010; and the 4:3:1:3:3:1:4 series in 2011-2015.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *National Immunization Survey*, 2006-2015.

- ◆ In 2015, Rhode Island's rate of children ages 19 months to 35 months that were fully immunized (77%) was above the national average of 72% and 6th best in U.S.<sup>9</sup>
- ◆ In 2015, the U.S. rate for fully immunized children ages 19 months to 35 months ranged from 69% for children living below the federal poverty level to 75% for children living at or above the federal poverty level. The 2015 U.S. rate was 78% for Asian, non-Hispanic children, 73% for White, non-Hispanic children, 72% for Hispanic children, and 69% for Black, non-Hispanic children.<sup>10</sup>
- ◆ Vaccine concerns have led some parents to request alternative vaccination schedules or to refuse some or all immunizations, which contribute to under-immunization.<sup>11,12</sup> Federal law requires that families be provided with information about each vaccine and given the opportunity to clarify issues or concerns with their health care provider.<sup>13</sup>
- ◆ In Rhode Island, children may be exempt from receiving one or more vaccines for medical or religious reasons.<sup>14</sup> In the 2015-2016 school year, 1.13% (126) of kindergarten students and 4.48% (562) of 7th grade students received exemptions from vaccination requirements. Of the 688 exemptions, 92% were for religious reasons and 8% were for medical reasons. Religious exemptions for 7th graders increased from 0.5% (60) in the 2014-2015 school year to 4.2% (529) in the 2015-2016 school year, mainly due to the addition of HPV vaccine to the 7th grade immunization requirements. Despite the increase in exemptions, the Rhode Island HPV vaccination rate for young adolescents is the best among 50 states and DC.<sup>15,16</sup>

## Vaccination Coverage Among Children, Ages 19 Months to 35 Months, Rhode Island and United States, 2015



Source: Rhode Island Department of Health analysis of data from the *National Immunization Survey-Children*, 2015.  
 \*\*Depending on the product type received, 3+ or 4+ doses of Hib vaccine is a full dose.

◆ In 2015, Rhode Island ranked first in the U.S. for the rotavirus vaccines; third in the U.S. for the 4+DTaP, 3+Polio and 3+HepB vaccines; fourth in the U.S. for the 4+PCV vaccine; and fifth in the U.S. for 1+VAR vaccine.

◆ In 2015, Rhode Island's rate of completion for the 4:3:1:0:3:1:4 (77%) did not reach the national *Healthy People 2020* target (80%), but a number of individual vaccine coverage rates in Rhode Island did. Polio, MMR, HepB, 4+DTaP, 4+PCV, and varicella had coverage rates that met or surpassed the *Healthy People 2020* targets (90%) set for each type of vaccine for children ages 19 months to 35 months.<sup>17,18</sup>

### References

<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2014). *Why are childhood vaccines so important?* Retrieved February 2, 2017, from www.cdc.gov

<sup>2</sup> *Immunization*. (2015). Washington, DC: Child Trends.

(continued on page 178)

## Immunizations for Elementary and Middle School Students

◆ The 2015-2016 *Rhode Island School Immunization Assessment* analyzed student immunization status reports through a web-based survey of all kindergarten and 7th grade school nurse teachers. The immunization statuses of 99% of kindergarten students and 99% of 7th grade students were reported. Of the immunizations needed for school entry, entering kindergarteners had coverage rates between 96% and 98%, while entering 7th grade students had rates between 74% and 99%.<sup>19</sup>

## Adolescent Immunization

◆ All Rhode Island adolescent students are required to receive the human papillomavirus (HPV), tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Tdap), and meningococcal conjugate (MCV) vaccines for entry into school as well as any needed catch-up doses.<sup>20</sup>

◆ According to the 2015 *National Immunization Survey-Teen*, Rhode Island adolescents ranked first in the U.S. for the 1+Tdap vaccine, 1+MCV vaccine, and the 1+HPV and 3+HPV vaccines for males and females. In 2015, 98% Rhode Island adolescents had received the 1+MCV vaccine, 97% had received the 2+MMR vaccine, 97% had received the 1+Tdap vaccine, 96% had received the 2+VAR vaccine, 95% had received the 3+HepB vaccine, and 68% of females and 58% of males had received the 3+HPV vaccine.<sup>21</sup>

◆ To ensure that all high school seniors are fully vaccinated before beginning college or work, the Rhode Island Office of Immunization runs the *Vaccinate Before You Graduate* (VBYG) program in middle and high schools throughout the state. The program holds vaccination clinics throughout the year at each participating school. The immunizations are funded by the federal Vaccines for Children program, local insurers, and other federal grants and are offered at no cost to students.<sup>22,23</sup>

◆ During the 2015-2016 school year, 103 schools participated in VBYG. In total, 4,996 vaccine doses were administered to 2,451 students. Vaccines administered included influenza, HPV, MCV4, hepatitis A (HepA), hepatitis B (HepB), measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR), polio (IPV), tetanus, diphtheria (TD), tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Tdap), and varicella (chicken pox).<sup>24</sup>

# Access to Dental Care

## DEFINITION

*Access to dental care* is the percentage of children under age 21 who were enrolled in RItE Care, RItE Share, or Medicaid fee-for-service on June 30 who had received dental services at any point during the previous State Fiscal Year.

## SIGNIFICANCE

Dental caries (tooth decay) is a common chronic disease among children. Poor oral health has immediate and significant negative impacts on children's overall health, growth and development, school attendance, and academic achievement.<sup>1,2</sup>

Insurance is a strong predictor of access to health and dental care. Nearly one in five (18%) uninsured children in the U.S. have unmet dental needs, compared with 5% of those with Medicaid and 3% of those with private health insurance.<sup>3</sup> In 2014, 94% of children in Rhode Island had dental insurance that paid for routine dental care, up from 73% in 2001 and 62% in 1990.<sup>4,5</sup>

Children living in poverty are more likely to have untreated tooth decay than higher-income children. Medicaid-eligible children are more than three times as likely to have untreated tooth decay as higher-income children. For children in low-income families, the efficacy and continuity of public dental insurance is a critical factor in access to dental care. In the U.S. and in Rhode

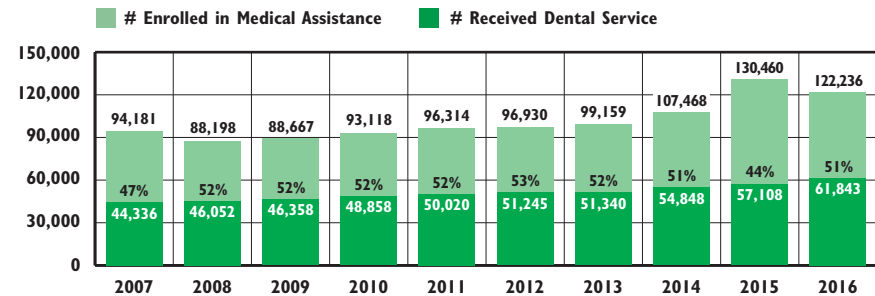
Island, children who have public health insurance coverage have greater access to dental and medical care than children who have no insurance.<sup>6,7,8</sup>

Minority children have the highest rates of tooth decay and untreated dental problems. In Rhode Island and the U.S., non-Hispanic White children are more likely to have had a recent dental visit than non-Hispanic Black or Hispanic children.<sup>9,10,11</sup>

Poor oral health during pregnancy has been shown to be a potential risk factor contributing to pregnancy complications and poor birth outcomes, including preterm birth and low birthweight infants.<sup>12,13</sup> Although oral health care can be safely delivered during pregnancy, about half (53%) of Rhode Island women report having a dental visit during their pregnancy. Women with low incomes are less likely to see a dentist; 41% of women with RItE Care coverage and 42% of women participating in WIC reported a dental visit during their pregnancy.<sup>14</sup>

Children with special health care needs may have problems finding and accessing providers who are trained and equipped to address their special dental, medical, behavioral, and mobility needs. A dental home can provide comprehensive, continuously accessible, coordinated, and family-centered dental care for all children, especially those with special needs.<sup>15,16</sup>

**Children Enrolled in Medical Assistance\* Programs Who Received Any Dental Service, Rhode Island, SFY 2007-2016**



Source: Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services, State Fiscal Years (SFY) 2007-2016. \*Medical Assistance includes RItE Care, RItE Share, and Medicaid fee-for-service. See Methodology Note for data limitations.

◆ **Fifty-one percent (61,843) of the children who were enrolled in RItE Care, RItE Share, or Medicaid fee-for-service on June 30, 2016 received a dental service during State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2016. The number of children receiving dental services has increased by 43% since 2006, when RItE Smiles launched.<sup>17</sup> Rhode Island ranked 32nd in the nation for percent of children enrolled in Medicaid with a dental visit in 2015.<sup>18</sup>**

◆ **The federal Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) mandate requires that states provide comprehensive dental benefits to children with Medicaid coverage.<sup>19</sup> States were asked to increase preventive dental services by 10% between Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2010 and 2015. With a baseline of 43% and a goal of 53%, 42% of children with Medicaid in Rhode Island received a preventive dental visit in FFY 2015.<sup>20,21</sup>**

◆ **RItE Smiles, Rhode Island's managed care oral health program for children born on or after May 1, 2000, has been credited with improving access to dental care (both preventive and treatment services) for young children.<sup>22,23,24</sup> As of December 31, 2016, there were 97,739 children enrolled in RItE Smiles. During SFY 2016, 83% of all Medicaid dental claims were for RItE Smiles members.<sup>25,26</sup>**

◆ **The federal *Affordable Care Act (ACA)* made pediatric dental benefits mandatory offerings for plans sold in the individual and small group market.<sup>27</sup> As of October 2016 1,877 children under age 19 were enrolled in commercial coverage in the individual market of HealthSource RI (Rhode Island's state-based insurance marketplace). More than one-third (39%) obtained commercial dental coverage through HealthSource RI; 61% did not.<sup>28</sup>**

## Dental Provider Participation in Medicaid and RIte Smiles

- ◆ Nationally, children and adults with public insurance coverage face access problems because many private dentists do not accept Medicaid for payment. Dental providers cite low reimbursement rates, administrative requirements, and patient-related issues (e.g., missed appointments and poor treatment compliance) as reasons why they do not see more patients with Medicaid coverage. Additional access barriers for children and families with public insurance include difficulty with transportation, limited language proficiency, lack of oral health literacy, and negative provider experiences.<sup>29,30</sup>
- ◆ Since RIte Smiles (Rhode Island's managed care oral health program) started in 2006, reimbursement rates have been raised for participating dental providers.<sup>31</sup> The number of dentists accepting qualifying children increased from 27 before RIte Smiles began to 90 at the launch of RIte Smiles.<sup>32</sup> In October 2016, there were 385 unduplicated dentists in 250 practice locations participating in RIte Smiles.<sup>33</sup>
- ◆ General dentists and dental specialists who provide dental care to older children who do not qualify for enrollment in the RIte Smiles program continue to be reimbursed at the Medicaid fee-for-service reimbursement rate.<sup>34</sup> Medicaid reimbursement rates often lag behind fees charged by dental providers and private commercial rates, which reduces incentives for providers to treat children with Medicaid coverage. Rhode Island had the second lowest Medicaid fee-for-service reimbursement rate for pediatric dental services in the nation in 2013.<sup>35</sup>

## Consequences of Untreated Dental Disease

- ◆ Between 2011 and 2015, an average of 656 children under age 21 were treated for a primary dental-related condition in Rhode Island emergency departments annually. Of these children and youth, 21% were ages five and under, 16% were ages six to 11, 17% were ages 12 to 17, and 46% were age 18-21.<sup>36</sup>
- ◆ Each year between 2011 and 2015 in Rhode Island, an average of 71 children under age 19 were hospitalized with a diagnosis that included an oral health condition. During this time period, an average of 19 children per year under age 19 were hospitalized with an oral health condition as the primary reason for the hospitalization.<sup>37</sup>

## Importance of Early Dental Visits for Very Young Children

- ◆ Clinical recommendations are that children first visit the dentist before age one.<sup>38</sup> However, only 1.8% of infants and one year old children in the U.S. have ever visited a dentist, compared with 89% who have seen a physician annually.<sup>39</sup> In Rhode Island, children under age six (63%) are less likely to have received a dental check-up or cleaning in past 12 months than children over age six (97% of 6-11 year olds and 93% of 12-17 year olds).<sup>40</sup>
- ◆ There are too few dentists trained to treat very young children, and too few who treat children with special health care needs or those who have public insurance.<sup>41</sup>
- ◆ As of FFY 2015, 35% of Rhode Island children under age five with Medicaid coverage received any dental service, and 31% received a preventive dental service.<sup>42</sup>
- ◆ In 2015, the Rhode Island General Assembly passed legislation to increase access to oral health care for children by allowing dental hygienists to perform approved services in public health settings, including for young children.<sup>43</sup>
- ◆ Primary care providers can conduct oral health risk assessment, refer for dental care, and provide preventive services, all of which can improve oral health outcomes.<sup>44</sup>
- ◆ In addition to covering dental visits for children before the age of one, Rhode Island is one of 49 state Medicaid programs that reimburse primary care medical providers for preventive oral health services for very young children, including risk assessment, anticipatory guidance, and fluoride varnish application.<sup>45,46</sup>

### References

Methodology Note: Data for 2016 should be interpreted with caution. In September 2016, the state of Rhode Island instituted a new integrated eligibility determination system (Unified Health Infrastructure Project/UHIP), which may have affected data counts for RIte Care, RIte Smiles, and other Medicaid coverage through HealthSourceRI.

<sup>1,6,9,15,29,38,41</sup> *The state of little teeth.* (2014). Chicago, IL: American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry.

<sup>2</sup> *Oral health in America: A report of the Surgeon General.* (2000). Rockville, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

<sup>3,10</sup> National Health Interview Survey. (2015). *Table C-11a: Age-adjusted percent distributions (with standard errors) of unmet dental need due to cost in the past 12 months and of length of time since last visit with a dentist or other dental health care professional for children aged 2-17 years, by selected characteristics: United States, 2015.* Retrieved February 14, 2017, from <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis/shs.htm>

(continued on page 178)

# Children's Mental Health

## DEFINITION

*Children's mental health* is the number of acute care hospitalizations of children under age 18 with a primary diagnosis of a mental disorder. Hospitalization is the most intensive type of treatment for mental disorders and represents only one type of treatment category on a broad continuum available to children with mental health problems in Rhode Island.

## SIGNIFICANCE

Mental health in childhood and adolescence is defined as the achievement of expected developmental, cognitive, social, and emotional milestones and the ability to use effective coping skills. Mental health status influences children's health and behavior at home, in child care or school, and in the community. Mental health conditions can impair academic achievement, increase involvement with the juvenile justice and child welfare systems, result in high treatment costs, diminish family incomes, and increase the risk for suicide. Children with mental health issues are also likely to have other chronic health conditions.<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>

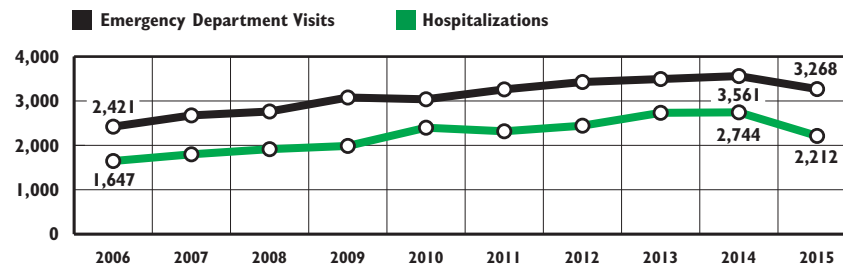
Behavioral health problems affect children of all backgrounds. Nationally, 10% of children under age five experience a significant mental health issue.<sup>5</sup> In Rhode Island, one in five (19.0%) children ages six to 17 has a diagnosable mental health problem; one

in ten (9.8%) has significant functional impairment.<sup>6</sup>

Children most at risk for mental disorders are those with prenatal exposure to alcohol, tobacco and other drugs; children born with low birthweight; those suffering abuse and neglect; children exposed to toxic stress; children of parents with a mental health disorder and/or an inherited predisposition to a mental disorder; those involved with juvenile justice and child welfare systems; and children living in poverty.<sup>7,8,9</sup>

Mental health treatment systems tend to be fragmented and crisis-driven with disproportionate spending on high-end care and often lack adequate investments in prevention and community-based services.<sup>10,11,12</sup> In Rhode Island, an estimated 34% of Rhode Island children who needed mental health treatment or counseling in the past 12 months did not receive it.<sup>13</sup> In Federal Fiscal Year 2016, 212 Rhode Island children and youth (down from 251 children in 2015) were boarded for an average of three days on medical floors at Hasbro Children's Hospital or Rhode Island Hospital awaiting a psychiatric inpatient admission. Also during that time, an average of six children per day were ready to leave the psychiatric hospital (down from the FFY 2015 average of eight kids per day), but were unable due to a lack of step-down availability or there being no other safe placement (including at home).<sup>14,15</sup>

**Emergency Visits and Hospitalizations, for Primary Diagnosis of Mental Disorder, Children Under Age 18, Rhode Island, 2006-2015\***



Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Hospital Discharge Database (HDD), 2006-2015. \*Data are for emergency department visits and hospitalizations, not children. Children may visit emergency department or be hospitalized more than once. Trend line is comparable to Factbooks since 2012.

◆ In 2015, there were 3,268 emergency department visits and 2,212 hospitalizations of Rhode Island children under age 18 with a primary diagnosis of mental disorder at Bradley, Butler, Hasbro Children's Hospital, Memorial, and Newport Hospitals.<sup>16</sup> While there were declines between 2014 and 2015, emergency department visits have increased 35% and hospitalizations have increased 34% since 2006.<sup>17</sup>

**Type of Care for Primary Diagnosis of Mental Disorder by Select Subgroups, Children Under Age 18, Rhode Island, 2015**

|                      | EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITS |     | HOSPITALIZATIONS |     |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|-----|------------------|-----|
|                      | #                           | %   | #                | %   |
| Female               | 1,657                       | 51% | 1,232            | 56% |
| Male                 | 1,611                       | 49% | 980              | 44% |
| Age 6 and Under      | 146                         | 4%  | 61               | 3%  |
| Age 7-12             | 803                         | 25% | 529              | 24% |
| Age 13-17            | 2,319                       | 71% | 1,622            | 73% |
| Medicaid/RIte Care   | 1,957                       | 60% | 1,070            | 48% |
| Commercial Insurance | 1,115                       | 34% | 1,097            | 50% |
| Black                | 315                         | 10% | 151              | 7%  |
| White                | 2,120                       | 65% | 1,465            | 66% |
| Hispanic*            | 637                         | 19% | 374              | 17% |
| <b>TOTAL</b>         | <b>3,268</b>                |     | <b>2,212</b>     |     |

Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Hospital Discharge Database, 2015. Totals may not sum to 100% due to small categories not being reported. \*Hispanic children can be of any race.

## Psychiatric Hospitals

Children Under Age 19 Treated at Rhode Island Psychiatric Hospitals, October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2016 (FFY 2016)

|                            | BRADLEY HOSPITAL<br>GENERAL PSYCHIATRIC<br>SERVICES |                              | BRADLEY HOSPITAL<br>DEVELOPMENTAL<br>DISABILITIES PROGRAM |                              | BUTLER HOSPITAL<br>ADOLESCENT<br>PSYCHIATRIC SERVICES |                              |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
|                            | #<br>TREATED                                        | AVERAGE<br>LENGTH<br>OF STAY | #<br>TREATED                                              | AVERAGE<br>LENGTH<br>OF STAY | #<br>TREATED                                          | AVERAGE<br>LENGTH<br>OF STAY |
| Inpatient                  | 960                                                 | 16 days                      | 121                                                       | 28 days                      | 486*                                                  | 8 days                       |
| Residential                | 34                                                  | 247 days                     | 33                                                        | 179 days                     | --                                                    | --                           |
| Partial<br>Hospitalization | 908                                                 | 18 days                      | 107                                                       | 18 days                      | 156                                                   | 5 visits                     |
| Home-Based                 | 0                                                   | 0                            | 17                                                        | 20 visits                    | --                                                    | --                           |
| Outpatient                 | 1,231**                                             | **                           | **                                                        | **                           | 44                                                    | NA                           |

Source: Lifespan, 2015-2016 and Butler Hospital, 2015-2016. Programs can have overlapping enrollment. Number treated is based on the hospital census (i.e., the number of patients seen in any program during FFY 2016). The average length of stay is based on discharges. \*An additional 57 youth were treated in adult programs. \*\*Only total number treated with outpatient services by the Lifespan Physician Group is available for Bradley Hospital this year.

-- = Service not offered. NA = Data not available for this service.

◆ The two hospitals in Rhode Island that specialize in providing psychiatric care to children and youth are Bradley Hospital and Butler Hospital. Inpatient treatment at a psychiatric hospital is the most intensive type of behavioral health care. The most common diagnoses for young people treated at Butler or Bradley Hospitals in FFY 2016 in an inpatient setting were depressive disorders, anxiety disorders, adjustment disorders, bipolar disorders, and schizophrenia.<sup>18,19</sup>

◆ Bradley Hospital has a Developmental Disabilities Program that offers highly specialized inpatient and residential services to children and adolescents who show signs of serious emotional and behavioral problems in addition to developmental disabilities. Lifespan School Solutions owns and operated six Bradley schools and ten community-based classrooms/public school partnerships for children with behavioral health problems and developmental disabilities, which together had an average daily enrollment of 386 students in FFY 2016.<sup>20</sup>

## Children with Medicaid and RItE Care with a Mental Health Diagnosis

◆ In State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2016, 22% (24,860) children under age 19 enrolled in Medicaid/RItE Care had a mental health diagnosis, including but not limited to anxiety, alcohol/drug dependence, or psychosis as well as depressive, mood, and personality disorders. Of those children with a mental health diagnosis, 24% were ages 6 and under, 38% were ages seven to 12, and 38% were ages 13 to 18. In addition, 40% were females and 60% were males.

◆ In SFY 2016, 983 children under age 19 enrolled in Medicaid/RItE Care were hospitalized due a mental health related condition (up from 595 in 2015) and 1,690 children had a mental health related emergency department visit (up from 1,269 in 2015). Ninety-six percent of those mental health-related emergency department visits for children under age 19 in SFY 2016 did not result in a hospitalization.<sup>21</sup>

## Suicide Among Rhode Island Children and Youth

◆ Children and youth with mental health conditions are at increased risk for suicide.<sup>22</sup> In 2015, 10.5% of Rhode Island high school students reported attempting suicide one or more times during the past year. Rhode Island had the eighth highest suicide attempt rate among ranked states in 2015.<sup>23</sup> In Rhode Island between 2010 and 2014 (the most recent year for which data are available), there were 873 emergency department visits and 442 hospitalizations of youth ages 13-19 due to suicide attempts. Twenty-four children under age 20 died due to suicide in Rhode Island between 2010-2014 (most recent data available).<sup>24</sup>

## Rhode Island's Community Mental Health Organizations

◆ The six Community Mental Health Organizations (CMHOs) in Rhode Island are the primary source of public mental health treatment services available in the state for children and adults. During 2016, 5,507 children under age 18 were treated at CMHOs, and 3,769 children were receiving treatment as of December 31, 2016.<sup>25</sup>

### References

<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2013). Mental health surveillance among children: United States, 2005-2011. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 62(Supp.2):1-35.

<sup>22</sup> Murphey, D., Barry, M., & Vaughn, B. (2013). *Adolescent health highlight: Mental health disorders*. (Publication No. 2013-1). Washington DC: Child Trends.

(continued on page 179)

# Children with Special Needs

## DEFINITION

*Children with special needs* are those who have a chronic disease or disability that requires educational services, health care, and/or related services of a type or amount beyond that required generally by children. Special needs can be physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional. This indicator measures the number of children enrolled in Early Intervention, special education, Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Medical Assistance for children with special health care needs.

## SIGNIFICANCE

An estimated 20% of children in the U.S. and 21% of children in Rhode Island have at least one special health care need.<sup>1</sup> Children with special health care needs (CSHCN) can have impairments of varying degrees in physical, developmental, emotional, and/or behavioral functioning.<sup>2</sup> Parental reports of developmental screening for young children during health care visits in Rhode Island increased from 15% in 2007 to 32% in 2012.<sup>3</sup> Nationally, 41% of CSHCN have two or more special health needs. Health conditions most commonly reported are Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, asthma, learning disabilities, speech problems, developmental delay, behavioral problems, anxiety, and depression.<sup>4</sup>

Children with mild or severe disabling conditions have special needs related to physical health, mental health, education, family support, housing, child care, and recreation.<sup>5</sup> Health-related needs are best met via a comprehensive, coordinated, continuous, accessible, and family-centered medical home.<sup>6</sup>

Rhode Island high school students with disabilities reported experiencing physical fights, being electronically bullied, and being bullied at school, as well as acute depression more than their non-disabled peers. They also reported higher rates of mental health problems, physical inactivity, poor grades, sexual activity, forced sexual intercourse, cigarette smoking, drinking, and using marijuana.<sup>7,8</sup>

CSHCN may require medical services, equipment, assistive technology, or home modifications that may result in serious financial burdens on families.<sup>9,10</sup> Having children with special needs significantly impacts parents' finances, employment, and family lives.<sup>11,12</sup> In 2015, the Rhode Island General Assembly established Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) tax-free saving accounts for people who become disabled before age 26, which cover a range of expenses, including health care, education, housing, transportation, and employment training.<sup>13,14,15</sup>

## Children Enrolled in Early Intervention

- ◆ States are required by the federal *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C* to identify and provide appropriate Early Intervention 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.<sup>16</sup>
- ◆ In Rhode Island in 2016, nine certified Early Intervention (EI) provider agencies served 4,186 children. As of June 30, 2016, there were 2,022 children enrolled in EI (6% of all children under age three). Nearly two-thirds (62%) of those children receiving EI services were male and just over one-third (38%) were female. EI enrollment was not evenly distributed among children by age, with 32% less than one year old, 50% between ages one and two, and 19% between ages two and three during that time period.<sup>17</sup>

## Children Enrolled in Special Education

- ◆ Under *IDEA Part B*, local school systems are responsible for identifying, evaluating, and serving students ages three to 21 who have disabilities that might require special education and related services.<sup>18</sup>
- ◆ As of June 30, 2016 in Rhode Island, there were 3,050 children ages three to five who received preschool special education services.<sup>19</sup>
- ◆ In Rhode Island as of June 30, 2016, 19,953 students in public schools ages six to 21 received special education services (14% of all students). Thirty-eight percent of students receiving special education services in Rhode Island had a learning disability.<sup>20</sup>
- ◆ Early Intervention (EI) programs are required to provide transition services for children who are enrolled in EI and who may be eligible for special education services at age three. In 2016, 63% of the 952 children who reached age three while in EI were determined to be eligible for preschool special education, 20% were found not eligible, and 14% did not have eligibility determined when exiting EI. The remainder completed their service plan prior to reaching the maximum age for EI, moved out of state, withdrew, or were otherwise unreachable for follow-up.<sup>21</sup>

## Medical Assistance for Children With Special Health Care Needs

- ◆ As of December 31, 2016, there were 4,961 Rhode Island children and youth under age 19 receiving Medical Assistance benefits through their enrollment in the federal Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program.<sup>22,23</sup>
- ◆ In Rhode Island, the Katie Beckett eligibility provision provides Medical Assistance coverage to children under age 19 who have serious disabling conditions, in order to enable them to be cared for at home instead of in an institution.<sup>24</sup> As of December 31, 2016, there were 961\* Rhode Island children enrolled through the Katie Beckett provision, a decline of 46% from the peak enrollment of 1,770 in 2007.<sup>25,26</sup>
- ◆ Children with special health care needs have a variety of coverage options under Medicaid. Medicaid coverage also provides access to the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit, which requires that children receive all of the services they need, either as a direct benefit or wrap-around benefit to commercial coverage they might have.<sup>27,28</sup>

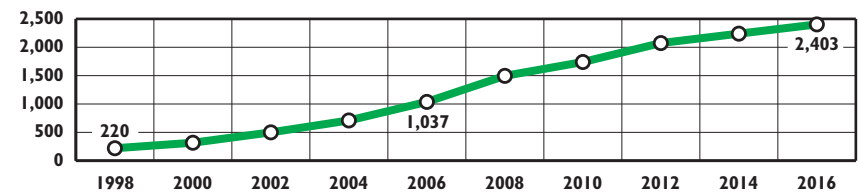
## Children With Special Needs in the Child Welfare System

- ◆ Children and youth who are in the child welfare system are more likely to have special needs, including behavioral and emotional problems, developmental delays, and serious health problems than other children. They often enter the child welfare system in poor health and face difficulties accessing services while in care.<sup>29,30</sup>
- ◆ As of December 31, 2016, 2,019\* children in Rhode Island were enrolled in Medical Assistance through the child welfare system.<sup>31</sup> Per provisions of the federal *Affordable Care Act (ACA)*, all youth who turned age 18 while in foster care are eligible for Medicaid coverage until they reach age 26 in the state in which they aged out of care.<sup>32,33</sup> In Rhode Island, estimates show that 61%\* of all eligible former foster youth were enrolled in Medicaid coverage as of December 31, 2016, up from 59% in 2015.<sup>34</sup>
- ◆ Children who are adopted 2,675\* through the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families and have special needs may qualify for Medical Assistance coverage. As of December 31, 2016, children were enrolled in Medical Assistance because of special needs adoptions.<sup>35</sup>

## Children With Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

- ◆ Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a developmental disability that can cause significant social, communication, and behavioral challenges. Children diagnosed with ASD have a variety of symptoms and experience challenges and abilities that range widely in severity. Many children with ASD face challenges in social interaction, speech/language, and communication and demonstrate repetitive behaviors and routines.<sup>36,37</sup>
- ◆ The national ASD prevalence (including mild to severe disorders) among children age eight is estimated to be 14.6 per 1,000 children age eight, or one out of every 68. ASD prevalence is significantly higher among non-Hispanic White children (15.5 per 1,000 children age eight) than non-Hispanic Black (13.2) children and Hispanic (10.1) children, and higher among boys (23.6, or one in 42 boys) than girls (5.3, or one in 189 girls).<sup>38</sup>

## Children Ages Three to 21 With Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Rhode Island, December 1998 – June 2016



Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, Office of Student, Community and Academic Supports, December 1998-June 2016. All data prior to 2000 is a December point in time run, and all data starting in 2000 and beyond is a June point in time run. Numbers include parentally placed students.

- ◆ In June 2016, there were 2,403 Rhode Island children ages three to 21 with ASD who received special education services.<sup>39</sup> The increase in number of children with ASD has been attributed, in part, to improved awareness and better screening and evaluation tools, as well as the broadening of the definition of ASD.<sup>40,41</sup> Early and appropriate identification and sustained interventions by skilled professionals can result in improvements in the levels of independent functioning of children and youth with ASD and long-term life outcomes.<sup>42,43</sup>

### Methodology & References

\*Data for 2016 should be interpreted with caution. In September 2016, the state of Rhode Island instituted a new integrated eligibility determination system (Unified Health Infrastructure Project/UHIP), which may have affected data counts for Rte Care, Rte Smiles, Katie Beckett, former foster youth, and special needs adoptions.

References are on page 179.

# Infants Born at Risk

## DEFINITION

*Infants born at risk* is the number of babies born in Rhode Island to Rhode Island women who were low-income, single, did not have a high school diploma, or were under age 20.

## SIGNIFICANCE

The basic architecture of the human brain develops during the infant and toddler years. By age three, a child's brain has grown to 90% of its adult size and the foundation of many cognitive structures and systems are in place. Early experiences lay the foundation for future learning, and strong, positive relationships are the building blocks for healthy development. Babies who have positive, predictable relationships with parents and other caregivers have a sturdy foundation to achieve healthy growth and development, while babies who do not have a strong relationship with a nurturing caregiver often encounter challenges in future learning and development.<sup>1,2,3</sup>

Infancy is a time of great opportunity and vulnerability. A child's development can be compromised by "toxic stress" caused by a variety of adverse childhood experiences and risk factors, including poverty, maternal depression, family chaos, exposure to violence, child maltreatment, parental substance abuse, and/or parental incarceration. These negative experiences in early childhood

place a child at increased risk for lower rates of school engagement, chronic disease, reduced quality of life in adulthood and reduced life expectancy.<sup>4,5,6</sup>

Economic hardship in early childhood is associated with poor educational and health outcomes. Differences in development are evident by age two, with children born into low-income families lagging behind children born into higher income families. When economic insecurity is combined with other risk factors such as having a single parent, a parent with low education levels, and/or a teen parent, children are at markedly increased risk for poor outcomes.<sup>7</sup> In the U.S., 45% of all infants and toddlers live in low-income families (below 200% of the federal poverty line), a significantly higher proportion than older children and adults. In fact, children under age three are more than twice as likely to live in poverty than adults age 65 or older.<sup>8</sup>

Family planning programs help individuals avoid unintended pregnancies which are associated with negative educational, health, and economic outcomes for women and children.<sup>9,10</sup> In addition, evidence-based home visiting programs for vulnerable families beginning during pregnancy (or as early as possible) and continuing through infancy and toddlerhood help parents develop critical nurturing skills and improve outcomes for children.<sup>11</sup>

**Births by Key Risk Factors, Four Core Cities and Rhode Island, 2016**

| CITY/TOWN           | BIRTHS        | # TO LOW-INCOME MOTHERS | # TO SINGLE MOTHERS | # TO MOTHERS WITHOUT A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA | # TO MOTHERS YOUNGER THAN 20 |
|---------------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Central Falls       | 326           | 289                     | 233                 | 106                                        | 30                           |
| Pawtucket           | 941           | 650                     | 555                 | 162                                        | 52                           |
| Providence          | 2,309         | 1,768                   | 1,415               | 473                                        | 162                          |
| Woonsocket          | 541           | 387                     | 351                 | 109                                        | 44                           |
| <i>Rhode Island</i> | <i>10,212</i> | <i>5,128</i>            | <i>4,672</i>        | <i>1,144</i>                               | <i>452</i>                   |

Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, KIDSNET Database, 2016.

- ◆ The U.S. birth rate has been declining since 2007, reaching another historic low in 2015. The U.S. birth rate has also been declining for teens and for single women. Rhode Island had the fifth lowest birth rate in the U.S. in 2015, with 10.4 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 44.<sup>12</sup>
- ◆ The total number of babies born in Rhode Island to Rhode Island women declined 15% between 2007 and 2016, from 12,010 to 10,212 births.<sup>13</sup>
- ◆ Between 2007 and 2016 in Rhode Island, the proportion of births to mothers without a high school diploma fell from 18% to 11% and births to teen mothers fell from 10% to 4% of all births. The proportion of births to single mothers decreased from 47% to 46% of all births during that time.<sup>14</sup>
- ◆ All babies born in Rhode Island are screened through the Rhode Island Department of Health's Newborn Risk Assessment Program. In 2016, there were 6,475 newborns (63%) who "screened positive," indicating the presence of one or more risk factors associated with poor developmental outcomes.<sup>15</sup>
- ◆ Of the 10,212 babies born in Rhode Island to Rhode Island women in 2016, nearly one-third (3,167) had a mother with a documented history of treatment for mental health conditions. Also, 568 had a mother with a documented history of substance abuse problems and 196 had a mother with documented involvement in the child welfare system (either as an adult or as a child).<sup>16</sup>

Table 16.

## Infants Born at Risk, Rhode Island, 2016

| CITY/TOWN          | TOTAL # OF BIRTHS | # OF BIRTHS TO LOW-INCOME FAMILIES | # OF BIRTHS TO SINGLE MOTHERS | BIRTHS TO MOTHERS WITHOUT A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA | # OF BIRTHS TO MOTHERS YOUNGER THAN AGE 20 |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Barrington         | 107               | 19                                 | 18                            | 3                                               | 0                                          |
| Bristol            | 130               | 40                                 | 42                            | 6                                               | *                                          |
| Burrillville       | 110               | 38                                 | 44                            | 8                                               | 6                                          |
| Central Falls      | 326               | 289                                | 233                           | 106                                             | 30                                         |
| Charlestown        | 56                | 22                                 | 20                            | 3                                               | *                                          |
| Coventry           | 290               | 91                                 | 106                           | 13                                              | 5                                          |
| Cranston           | 797               | 334                                | 314                           | 40                                              | 15                                         |
| Cumberland         | 338               | 76                                 | 87                            | 12                                              | 6                                          |
| East Greenwich     | 119               | 16                                 | 15                            | 3                                               | *                                          |
| East Providence    | 466               | 174                                | 197                           | 31                                              | 17                                         |
| Exeter             | 43                | 9                                  | 8                             | 2                                               | 0                                          |
| Foster             | 26                | 9                                  | 9                             | 1                                               | 0                                          |
| Glocester          | 58                | 18                                 | 16                            | 0                                               | 0                                          |
| Hopkinton          | 39                | 9                                  | 11                            | 0                                               | 0                                          |
| Jamestown          | 14                | 2                                  | 3                             | 0                                               | 0                                          |
| Johnston           | 253               | 109                                | 105                           | 9                                               | 6                                          |
| Lincoln            | 183               | 67                                 | 61                            | 8                                               | 6                                          |
| Little Compton     | 13                | 4                                  | 3                             | 0                                               | 0                                          |
| Middletown         | 133               | 30                                 | 32                            | 2                                               | *                                          |
| Narragansett       | 51                | 19                                 | 19                            | 2                                               | 0                                          |
| New Shoreham       | 14                | 10                                 | 3                             | 1                                               | 0                                          |
| Newport            | 240               | 99                                 | 93                            | 24                                              | 5                                          |
| North Kingstown    | 216               | 57                                 | 67                            | 9                                               | *                                          |
| North Providence   | 289               | 121                                | 113                           | 14                                              | 13                                         |
| North Smithfield   | 75                | 29                                 | 20                            | 3                                               | *                                          |
| Pawtucket          | 941               | 650                                | 555                           | 162                                             | 52                                         |
| Portsmouth         | 110               | 18                                 | 24                            | 2                                               | 0                                          |
| Providence         | 2,309             | 1,768                              | 1,415                         | 473                                             | 162                                        |
| Richmond           | 40                | 9                                  | 13                            | 2                                               | *                                          |
| Scituate           | 93                | 10                                 | 22                            | 3                                               | *                                          |
| Smithfield         | 136               | 31                                 | 26                            | 0                                               | 0                                          |
| South Kingstown    | 160               | 43                                 | 43                            | 5                                               | *                                          |
| Tiverton           | 74                | 26                                 | 26                            | 5                                               | *                                          |
| Warren             | 66                | 28                                 | 32                            | 5                                               | 5                                          |
| Warwick            | 730               | 218                                | 258                           | 33                                              | 30                                         |
| West Greenwich     | 42                | 12                                 | 11                            | 1                                               | *                                          |
| West Warwick       | 338               | 152                                | 170                           | 34                                              | 16                                         |
| Westerly           | 147               | 48                                 | 48                            | 10                                              | *                                          |
| Woonsocket         | 541               | 387                                | 351                           | 109                                             | 44                                         |
| Unknown            | 99                | 37                                 | 39                            | 0                                               | 3                                          |
| Four Core Cities   | 4,117             | 3,094                              | 2,554                         | 850                                             | 288                                        |
| Remainder of State | 5,996             | 1,997                              | 2,079                         | 294                                             | 161                                        |
| Rhode Island       | 10,212            | 5,128                              | 4,672                         | 1,144                                           | 452                                        |

### Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Rhode Island Department of Health, KIDSNET Database, 2016. Birth data from 2016 are provisional. Data include only births that occurred in Rhode Island to Rhode Island residents. This table shows the number of births with key risk factors that place a child at high risk for poor developmental outcomes. Births to low-income families are births to women with public health insurance (Medicaid/RiteCare) or no insurance. Of the 5,128 births to low-income women in 2016, 5,069 had Medicaid/Rite Care coverage and 59 had no insurance).

\*Fewer than 5 births are in this category. Actual numbers are not shown because they are considered sensitive information by the Rhode Island Department of Health. These births are still counted in the four core cities, remainder of state, and state totals.

The definition for this indicator has changed. The number and percentage of births with all three specific risk factors (births to women under age 20, single, and without a high school diploma) and the percentage of all births with these risk factors is no longer being reported.

Unknown: Births were to Rhode Island residents, but specific city/town information was unavailable.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

### References

- <sup>1</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2011). *Supporting brain development in traumatized children and youth*. Washington, DC: Child Welfare Information Gateway.
- <sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2009). *Understanding the effects of maltreatment on brain development*. Washington, DC: Child Welfare Information Gateway.
- <sup>3A</sup> *Early experiences matter: A guide to improved policies for infants and toddlers*. (2009). Washington, DC: Zero to Three National Center for Infants and Toddlers.
- <sup>3</sup> Shonkoff, J. P., Garner, A. S. & the Committee on Psychosocial Aspects of Child and Family Health; Committee on Early Childhood, Adoption, and Dependent Care; and Section on Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics. (2011). The lifelong effects of early childhood adversity and toxic stress. *Pediatrics*, 129(1), e232-e246.

(continued on page 180)

# Evidence-Based Family Home Visiting

## DEFINITION

*Evidence-based family home visiting* is the number of families enrolled in evidence-based home visiting programs funded/coordinated by the Rhode Island Department of Health.

## SIGNIFICANCE

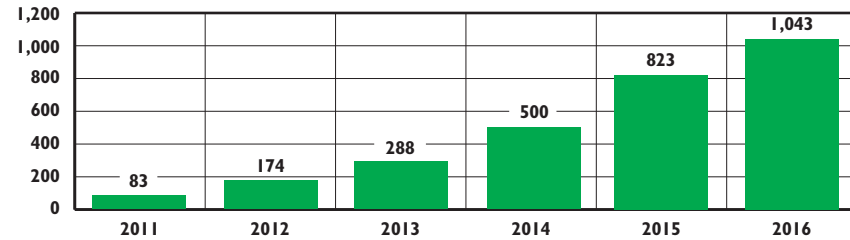
Parents are the most important individuals in a child's life, particularly during infancy and early childhood. Infants and toddlers who receive responsive, nurturing care and are provided with opportunities to learn have a strong foundation for success. When parents lack the knowledge or resources to meet the needs of their babies, the child's health, development, and learning trajectory are threatened.<sup>1,2</sup>

Home visiting programs are designed to reach young children and their families at home. Each program is different, but all 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. Families who participate are more likely to provide an enriching home environment, use appropriate discipline strategies, and become more

economically secure through education and employment. Some home visiting programs can also improve maternal and child health, reducing long-term health care costs.<sup>3,4,5</sup>

In 2010, federal legislation established the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) program to expand and improve state-administered home visiting programs for at-risk families with young children. The majority of funding must be spent by states on approved models that meet rigorous evidentiary standards.<sup>6</sup> As of September 2016, there are 19 home visiting models that have been identified as effective, evidence-based programs for families during the prenatal period and early childhood years, with evidence showing they produce statistically significant improvements in outcomes for children and families.<sup>7</sup> Rhode Island uses MIECHV funding to support implementation of three of these evidence-based models: Healthy Families America, Nurse-Family Partnership, and Parents as Teachers.<sup>8</sup> In order to achieve improved outcomes for children, evidence-based programs must follow national program guidelines, use professional staff trained in the model, be implemented in the appropriate timeframes, and be implemented with fidelity.<sup>9</sup>

**Families Enrolled in Evidence-Based Family Home Visiting Coordinated by the Rhode Island Department of Health, Rhode Island, 2011-2016**



Source: Children's Friend and Service, Nurse-Family Partnership enrollment in October 2011. Rhode Island Department of Health, enrollment in MIECHV-funded evidence-based home visiting programs, October 2012-2016. As of 2016, total enrolled includes families enrolled in three Parents as Teachers programs that had additional funding streams.

- ◆ As of October 2016, of the 1,043 families enrolled in evidence-based home visiting programs 12% had mothers under age 20, 29% had mothers ages 20 to 24, and 60% had mothers age 25 or older at enrollment.<sup>10</sup> Twenty-one percent of the mothers had less education than a high school diploma or GED, 24% had a high school diploma or GED, 16% had some college or vocational training, 3% had a four-year college degree, and 36% had an unknown amount of education.<sup>11</sup> At the time of enrollment, 57% of the mothers were single (had never married), 21% were married or had a domestic partner, 3% were divorced or separated, and 20% had an unknown marital status.<sup>12</sup> Among the enrolled children, 17% were not born yet, 42% were under age one, 28% were age one, 10% were age two, 2% were age three, and <1% were age four.<sup>13</sup>
- ◆ Home-based Early Head Start is also recognized as an evidence-based home visiting program that improves child outcomes.<sup>14</sup> As of October 2016 in Rhode Island, there were 357 children enrolled in home-based Early Head Start.<sup>15</sup>
- ◆ Early Intervention (EI) programs serve infants and toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities in Rhode Island and deliver nearly all (95%) services through home visits. As of June 2016, there were 2,022 children enrolled in EI in Rhode Island.<sup>16</sup>
- ◆ Rhode Island also operates First Connections, a statewide, short-term home visiting program designed to help families get connected to needed resources. In 2016, 3,792 children received at least one First Connections home visit (55% lived in one of the four core cities and 45% in the remainder of the state).<sup>17</sup>

# Evidence-Based Family Home Visiting

Table 17.

## Evidence-Based Family Home Visiting, Rhode Island, 2016

| CITY/TOWN          | COMMUNITY CONTEXT, 2016 |                                         |                                    | # RECEIVED FIRST CONNECTIONS VISIT IN 2016 | # FAMILIES ENROLLED IN EVIDENCE-BASED HOME VISITING PROGRAMS, OCTOBER 1, 2016 |                          |                      | TOTAL |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|-------|
|                    | TOTAL # OF BIRTHS       | # OF BIRTHS WITH 1 OR MORE RISK FACTORS | # OF BIRTHS TO LOW-INCOME FAMILIES |                                            | HEALTHY FAMILIES AMERICA                                                      | NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP | PARENTS AS TEACHERS* |       |
| Barrington         | 107                     | 33                                      | 19                                 | 12                                         | 2                                                                             | 0                        | 0                    | 2     |
| Bristol            | 130                     | 75                                      | 40                                 | 35                                         | 1                                                                             | 1                        | 1                    | 3     |
| Burrillville       | 110                     | 63                                      | 38                                 | 20                                         | 4                                                                             | 0                        | 0                    | 4     |
| Central Falls      | 326                     | 280                                     | 289                                | 210                                        | 40                                                                            | 9                        | 15                   | 64    |
| Charlestown        | 56                      | 36                                      | 22                                 | 20                                         | 4                                                                             | 0                        | 1                    | 5     |
| Coventry           | 290                     | 156                                     | 91                                 | 91                                         | 6                                                                             | 0                        | 3                    | 9     |
| Cranston           | 797                     | 456                                     | 334                                | 249                                        | 30                                                                            | 3                        | 22                   | 55    |
| Cumberland         | 338                     | 144                                     | 76                                 | 64                                         | 1                                                                             | 3                        | 3                    | 7     |
| East Greenwich     | 119                     | 32                                      | 16                                 | 18                                         | 2                                                                             | 0                        | 0                    | 2     |
| East Providence    | 466                     | 277                                     | 174                                | 101                                        | 15                                                                            | 2                        | 11                   | 28    |
| Exeter             | 43                      | 18                                      | 9                                  | 15                                         | 1                                                                             | 0                        | 0                    | 1     |
| Foster             | 26                      | 16                                      | 9                                  | 5                                          | 0                                                                             | 0                        | 0                    | 0     |
| Glocester          | 58                      | 29                                      | 18                                 | 9                                          | 0                                                                             | 0                        | 0                    | 0     |
| Hopkinton          | 39                      | 20                                      | 9                                  | 13                                         | 2                                                                             | 1                        | 0                    | 3     |
| Jamestown          | 14                      | 5                                       | 2                                  | 2                                          | 0                                                                             | 0                        | 0                    | 0     |
| Johnston           | 253                     | 146                                     | 109                                | 66                                         | 2                                                                             | 4                        | 1                    | 7     |
| Lincoln            | 183                     | 91                                      | 67                                 | 44                                         | 4                                                                             | 2                        | 5                    | 11    |
| Little Compton     | 13                      | 6                                       | 4                                  | 4                                          | 0                                                                             | 0                        | 0                    | 0     |
| Middletown         | 133                     | 62                                      | 30                                 | 41                                         | 4                                                                             | 0                        | 0                    | 4     |
| Narragansett       | 51                      | 30                                      | 19                                 | 17                                         | 2                                                                             | 0                        | 1                    | 3     |
| New Shoreham       | 14                      | 7                                       | 10                                 | 1                                          | 0                                                                             | 0                        | 0                    | 0     |
| Newport            | 240                     | 139                                     | 99                                 | 73                                         | 14                                                                            | 3                        | 0                    | 17    |
| North Kingstown    | 216                     | 96                                      | 57                                 | 58                                         | 3                                                                             | 0                        | 0                    | 3     |
| North Providence   | 289                     | 161                                     | 121                                | 99                                         | 1                                                                             | 2                        | 0                    | 3     |
| North Smithfield   | 75                      | 32                                      | 29                                 | 18                                         | 0                                                                             | 0                        | 0                    | 0     |
| Pawtucket          | 941                     | 721                                     | 650                                | 460                                        | 75                                                                            | 29                       | 42                   | 146   |
| Portsmouth         | 110                     | 44                                      | 18                                 | 32                                         | 5                                                                             | 0                        | 0                    | 5     |
| Providence         | 2,309                   | 1,836                                   | 1,768                              | 1,170                                      | 273                                                                           | 86                       | 106                  | 465   |
| Richmond           | 40                      | 27                                      | 9                                  | 24                                         | 0                                                                             | 0                        | 0                    | 0     |
| Scituate           | 93                      | 35                                      | 10                                 | 17                                         | 0                                                                             | 0                        | 0                    | 0     |
| Smithfield         | 136                     | 57                                      | 31                                 | 21                                         | 0                                                                             | 0                        | 1                    | 1     |
| South Kingstown    | 160                     | 70                                      | 43                                 | 68                                         | 7                                                                             | 0                        | 1                    | 8     |
| Tiverton           | 74                      | 38                                      | 26                                 | 19                                         | 3                                                                             | 1                        | 0                    | 4     |
| Warren             | 66                      | 41                                      | 28                                 | 13                                         | 4                                                                             | 0                        | 3                    | 7     |
| Warwick            | 730                     | 402                                     | 218                                | 214                                        | 12                                                                            | 2                        | 2                    | 16    |
| West Greenwich     | 42                      | 16                                      | 12                                 | 11                                         | 3                                                                             | 0                        | 1                    | 4     |
| West Warwick       | 338                     | 210                                     | 152                                | 135                                        | 14                                                                            | 1                        | 4                    | 19    |
| Westerly           | 147                     | 75                                      | 48                                 | 65                                         | 6                                                                             | 0                        | 35                   | 41    |
| Woonsocket         | 541                     | 432                                     | 387                                | 258                                        | 53                                                                            | 9                        | 34                   | 96    |
| Unknown Residence  | 99                      | 61                                      | 37                                 | 0                                          | 0                                                                             | 0                        | 0                    | 0     |
| Four Core Cities   | 4,117                   | 3,269                                   | 3,094                              | 2,098                                      | 441                                                                           | 133                      | 197                  | 771   |
| Remainder of State | 5,996                   | 3,145                                   | 1,997                              | 1,694                                      | 152                                                                           | 25                       | 95                   | 272   |
| Rhode Island       | 10,212                  | 6,475                                   | 5,128                              | 3,792                                      | 593                                                                           | 158                      | 292                  | 1,043 |

### Source of Data for Table/Methodology

The number of births, the percentage of births by risk factor, the number of families that received a First Connections visit, and the number of families enrolled in an evidence-based family home visiting program are from the Rhode Island Department of Health. Number of births with one or more risk factor is “risk positive” definition from the Developmental Risk Assessment. Births to low-income families are births to women with public health insurance (Medicaid/RteCare) or no insurance.

\*The city/town table includes families enrolled in MIECHV-funded and three additional Parents as Teachers programs that had other funding streams. There are other Parents as Teachers programs in Rhode Island.

Unknown: Births were to Rhode Island residents, but specific city/town information was unavailable.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket

### References

- <sup>1,3</sup> DiLauro, E. & Schreiber, L. (2012). *Reaching families where they live: Supporting parents and child development through home visiting*. Washington, DC: Zero to Three.
- <sup>2,6</sup> *States and the new federal home visiting initiative: An assessment from the starting line*. (2011). Washington, DC: The Pew Charitable Trusts.
- <sup>4,7,14</sup> Sama-Miller, E., et al. (2016). *Home visiting evidence of effectiveness review: Executive summary*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Planning, Research, and Evaluation.
- <sup>5</sup> *Home visiting family support programs: Benefits of the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program*. (2015). Washington, DC: The Pew Charitable Trusts.
- <sup>8,10,11,12,13,14,17</sup> Rhode Island Department of Health, 2016.
- <sup>9</sup> Howard, K. S. & Brooks-Gunn, J. (2009). The role of home-visiting programs in preventing child abuse and neglect. *The Future of Children*, 19(2), 119-146.
- <sup>15</sup> Rhode Island Early Head Start program reports to Rhode Island KIDS COUNT, October 2016.
- <sup>16</sup> Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Center for Child and Family Health, June 30, 2016.

# Women with Delayed Prenatal Care

## DEFINITION

*Women with delayed prenatal care* is the percentage of women beginning prenatal care in the second or third trimester of pregnancy. Data are reported by place of mother's residence, not place of infant's birth.

## SIGNIFICANCE

Early prenatal care is an important way to identify and treat health problems as well as influence health behaviors that can compromise fetal development, infant health, and maternal health. Women receiving late or no prenatal care are at increased risk of poor birth outcomes such as having babies who are low birthweight or who die within the first year of life.<sup>1</sup>

Effective prenatal care screens for and intervenes with a range of maternal needs including nutrition, social support, mental health, smoking cessation, substance use, domestic violence, and unmet needs for food and shelter.<sup>2,3,4</sup> A prenatal visit is the first step in establishing an infant's medical home and can provide valuable links to other health services.<sup>5,6</sup>

Timely initiation of prenatal care is especially important for women who face multiple risks for poor birth outcomes, as is ensuring access to preconception health care services

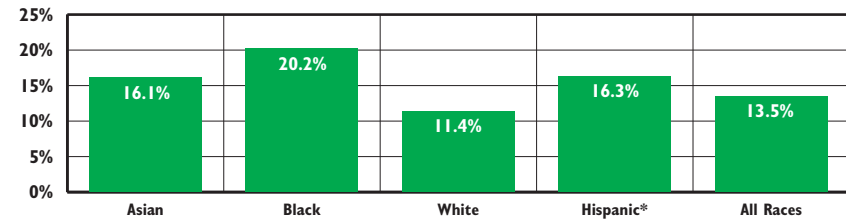
before pregnancy. Effective monitoring and treatment of chronic disease, education on preventive health practices, implementing and enhancing Medicaid policies to improve health insurance coverage, and ensuring access to culturally and linguistically competent health providers can improve prenatal care for women of child-bearing age.<sup>7</sup>

Barriers to prenatal care include not knowing one is pregnant, not being able to get an appointment or start care when desired, lack of transportation or child care, inability to get time off work, and/or financial constraints, including lack of insurance and/or money to pay for care.

Rhode Island women with delayed or no prenatal care were more likely to report their pregnancy was unintended than women who initiated care in the first trimester.<sup>8</sup> Between 2009 and 2011, 22.0% of Rhode Island mothers who had an unintended pregnancy had delayed or no prenatal care, compared with 7.9% of mothers who had an intended pregnancy.<sup>9</sup>

In Rhode Island between 2011 and 2015, 13.5% of women who gave birth did not begin care until the second or third trimester. Pregnant adolescents in Rhode Island are the most likely to delay prenatal care.<sup>10</sup>

**Women With Delayed Prenatal Care by Race/Ethnicity, Rhode Island, 2011-2015**



Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, Maternal and Child Database, 2011-2015. \*Hispanic may be included in any racial category. \*See note regarding new methodology for calculations, starting with this Factbook. Data for births in 2015 are provisional.

◆ **Between 2011-2015 in Rhode Island, Black women (20.2%), Hispanic women (16.3%), and Asian women (16.1%), were more likely to receive delayed prenatal care than White women (11.4%).<sup>11</sup>**

◆ **Between 2011-2015 in Rhode Island, women with a high school degree or less were more likely to receive delayed prenatal care than their peers (18.0% compared to 10.0%), and the rate of delayed prenatal care among pregnant women in the four core cities was 17.4%.<sup>12</sup>**

## Insurance Coverage Improves Access to Prenatal Care

◆ **In the U.S. and Rhode Island, women with commercial insurance have the highest rates of timely prenatal care. Rhode Island women who are most likely to initiate care in the first trimester are also older, married, and have higher levels of education.<sup>13,14</sup>**

◆ **Between 2011-2015, pregnant women with health coverage through RIte Care (Rhode Island's Medicaid managed care health program) were much less likely (18.2%) to receive delayed prenatal care than women who were uninsured (31.9%). Pregnant women with private insurance coverage were the least likely to receive delayed prenatal care (8.9%) during this time period.<sup>15</sup>**

◆ **RIte Care has had a positive impact on health care services for its members. RIte Care health plans rank above the 90th percentile in member access to timely prenatal care when compared to other Medicaid health plans in the nation.<sup>16</sup>**

# Women with Delayed Prenatal Care

Table 18. Delayed Prenatal Care, Rhode Island, 2011-2015

| CITY/TOWN          | # BIRTHS | # DELAYED CARE | % DELAYED CARE |
|--------------------|----------|----------------|----------------|
| Barrington         | 513      | 45             | 8.8%           |
| Bristol            | 730      | 81             | 11.1%          |
| Burrillville       | 648      | 77             | 11.9%          |
| Central Falls      | 1,575    | 269            | 17.1%          |
| Charlestown        | 249      | 15             | NA             |
| Coventry           | 1,448    | 160            | 11.0%          |
| Cranston           | 3,916    | 454            | 11.6%          |
| Cumberland         | 1,625    | 161            | 9.9%           |
| East Greenwich     | 573      | 66             | 11.5%          |
| East Providence    | 2,372    | 279            | 11.8%          |
| Exeter             | 244      | 27             | NA             |
| Foster             | 172      | 22             | NA             |
| Glocester          | 344      | 41             | NA             |
| Hopkinton          | 306      | 27             | NA             |
| Jamestown          | 128      | 9              | NA             |
| Johnston           | 1,323    | 155            | 11.7%          |
| Lincoln            | 952      | 100            | 10.5%          |
| Little Compton     | 77       | 9              | NA             |
| Middletown         | 851      | 90             | 10.6%          |
| Narragansett       | 346      | 25             | NA             |
| New Shoreham       | 53       | 6              | NA             |
| Newport            | 1,283    | 144            | 11.2%          |
| North Kingstown    | 1,042    | 92             | 8.8%           |
| North Providence   | 1,635    | 204            | 12.5%          |
| North Smithfield   | 420      | 43             | NA             |
| Pawtucket          | 4,930    | 819            | 16.6%          |
| Portsmouth         | 570      | 45             | 7.9%           |
| Providence         | 12,724   | 2,248          | 17.7%          |
| Richmond           | 319      | 18             | NA             |
| Scituate           | 359      | 46             | NA             |
| Smithfield         | 620      | 62             | 10.0%          |
| South Kingstown    | 874      | 71             | 8.1%           |
| Tiverton           | 525      | 53             | 10.1%          |
| Warren             | 454      | 68             | NA             |
| Warwick            | 3,844    | 417            | 10.8%          |
| West Greenwich     | 231      | 23             | NA             |
| West Warwick       | 1,754    | 253            | 14.4%          |
| Westerly           | 927      | 55             | 5.9%           |
| Woonsocket         | 2,908    | 510            | 17.5%          |
| Unknown            | 104      | 8              | NA             |
| Four Core Cities   | 22,137   | 3,846          | 17.4%          |
| Remainder of State | 31,727   | 3,443          | 10.9%          |
| Rhode Island       | 53,968   | 7,297          | 13.5%          |

## Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, Maternal and Child Health Database, 2011-2015. Data for births in 2015 are provisional and 2014 birth data do not include births among Rhode Island residents that occurred out-of-state.

The denominator is the total number of live births to Rhode Island residents from 2011-2015.

NA: Rates should not be calculated due to small numbers and the lack of statistical reliability.

Unknown: Births were to Rhode Island residents, but specific city/town information was unavailable.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

Due to birth certificate changes that began in 2015 (the last year in the 2011-2015 five-year average), comparisons with previous years should be made with caution. Delayed prenatal care is now a calculated variable that is based on the number of visits over 90 days (3 months). "No prenatal care" is not broken out.

## References

- <sup>1</sup> *Late or no prenatal care: Indicators on children and youth.* (2015). Washington, DC: Child Trends.
- <sup>2</sup> Akkerman, D., et al. (2012). *Health care guideline: Routine prenatal care.* Retrieved February 27, 2017, from www.icsi.org
- <sup>3</sup> Hagan, J. F., Shaw, J. S., & Duncan, P. M. (Eds.). (2008). *Bright futures: Guidelines for health supervision of infants, children and adolescents (3rd ed.)*. Elk Grove Village, IL: American Academy of Pediatrics.
- <sup>4</sup> Zolotor, A. J. & Carrough, M. C. (2014). Update on prenatal care. *American Family Physician*, 89(3),199-208.
- <sup>5</sup> Cohen, G. & Committee on Psychosocial Aspects of Child and Family Health. (2009). The prenatal visit. *Pediatrics*, 124(4), 1227-1232.
- <sup>67</sup> Shore, R. & Shore, B. (2009). *KIDS COUNT indicator brief: Reducing infant mortality.* Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation.
- <sup>814</sup> Kim, H., Cain, R., & Viner-Brown, S. (2014). *2014 Rhode Island Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System data book.* Providence, RI: Rhode Island Department of Health.
- <sup>9</sup> *Unintended pregnancy among women in Rhode Island, 2009-2011.* (2015). Providence, RI: Rhode Island Department of Health.
- <sup>10,11,12,15</sup> Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, Maternal and Child Health Database, 2011-2015.
- <sup>13</sup> *Child health USA 2014.* (2015). Rockville, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- <sup>16</sup> *Monitoring quality and access through the Performance Goal Program.* (2016). Cranston, RI: Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services.

# Preterm Births

## DEFINITION

*Preterm births* is the percentage of births occurring before the 37th week of pregnancy. The data are reported by place of mother's residence, not place of infant's birth.

## SIGNIFICANCE

Preterm birth is a major determinant of infant mortality and morbidity in the U.S. Infants born before 37 weeks gestation are at higher risk than full-term infants for neurodevelopmental, respiratory, gastrointestinal, immune system, central nervous system, hearing, dental, and vision problems. Children who were born preterm may experience physical disabilities, learning difficulties, and behavioral problems later in life.<sup>1,2,3</sup>

While the specific causes of spontaneous preterm births are largely unknown, research indicates that there are a number of inter-related risk factors involved. The three leading risk factors are a history of preterm birth, current multifetal pregnancy, and uterine and/or cervical abnormalities. Other risk factors include health conditions, weight, maternal depression, late or no prenatal care, stress, domestic violence, and maternal use of tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs.<sup>4,5</sup>

Even "late preterm" infants (34-36 weeks gestation) can experience immediate and long-term complications. Infants born very preterm (<32 weeks

gestation) are at highest risk for death and enduring health problems, high hospitalization costs during their first year, and increased health care-related costs later in life.<sup>6,7</sup> Preventive interventions can improve outcomes for very preterm infants and their caregivers.<sup>8,9</sup>

The U.S. preterm birth rate rose slightly between 2014 and 2015, from 9.57% to 9.63%. This is the first rise since steady declines between 2007 and 2014. The preterm birth rate also increased among Non-Hispanic Black infants and Hispanic infants between 2014 and 2015, while it remained stable for non-Hispanic White infants. Non-Hispanic Black women continue to have the highest preterm birth rate in the U.S. (13.4% in 2015).<sup>10,11</sup>

Preterm birth is a major contributor to infant mortality in the U.S., particularly among non-Hispanic Black, Cuban, American/Alaska Native, and Puerto Rican infants.<sup>12</sup>

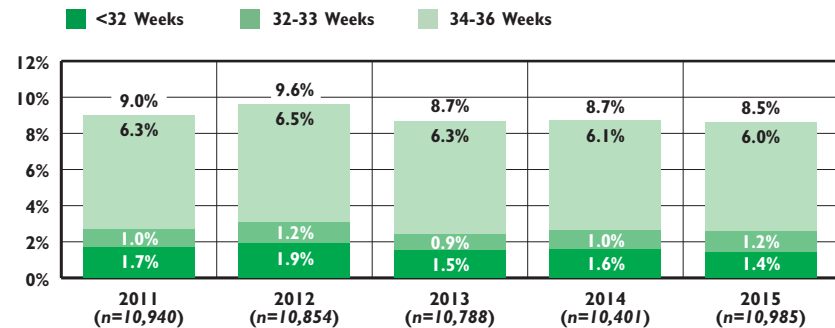
| Preterm Births            |       |             |
|---------------------------|-------|-------------|
|                           | 2007  | 2015        |
| <b>RI</b>                 | 10.8% | 8.6%        |
| <b>US</b>                 | 10.4% | 9.6%        |
| <b>National Rank*</b>     |       | <b>13th</b> |
| <b>New England Rank**</b> |       | <b>5th</b>  |

\*1st is best; 50th is worst

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

Sources: For 2015: Martin, J. A., et al. (2017). Births: Final data for 2015. *NVSR*, 66(1), 1-69. For 2007: Martin, J. A., et al. (2015). Measuring gestational age in vital statistics data: Transitioning to the obstetric estimate. *NVSR*, 64(5), 1-19.

## Preterm Births by Gestational Age\*, Rhode Island, 2011-2015



Source: RI Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, Maternal and Child Health Database, 2011-2015. Percentages by gestational age may not sum to total percentage of preterm births due to rounding. \*See note regarding new methodology for calculating preterm births, starting with the 2016 Factbook. Data for births in 2015 are provisional.

- ◆ The single-year preterm birth rate in Rhode Island decreased from 2014 to 2015 (8.7% to 8.5%). Between 2011 and 2015, 70.1% of all preterm births in Rhode Island were late preterm births (34-36 weeks gestation) and 18.0% of all preterm births were very preterm (<32 weeks gestation).<sup>13</sup>
- ◆ Multiple births are more likely to be born preterm. In Rhode Island between 2011 and 2015, 55.2% of multiple births were preterm, compared with 7.2% of singleton births.<sup>14</sup>
- ◆ Between 2011 and 2015, 11.1% of births of Black infants in Rhode Island were preterm, compared with 8.4% of Asian and 8.4% of White infants. During this same time period, 9.4% of births to Hispanic women in Rhode Island were preterm.<sup>15</sup>
- ◆ The rate of preterm births varies by age. In Rhode Island between 2011 and 2015, 9.4% of births among teen girls under age 20, 8.5% of births among women ages 20 to 34, and 10.5% of births among women age 35 and older were preterm.<sup>16</sup>
- ◆ Among women with private health insurance coverage in Rhode Island between 2011 and 2015, 8.3% of births were preterm, compared with 9.4% of those with public insurance coverage and 16.7% of births to women with no health insurance.<sup>17</sup>
- ◆ In Rhode Island between 2011 and 2015, 9.4% of births to women with a high school degree or less were preterm, compared with 8.1% of those with higher education levels.<sup>18</sup>

Table 19. Preterm Births, Rhode Island, 2011-2015

| CITY/TOWN          | # BIRTHS | # PRETERM BIRTHS | % PRETERM BIRTHS |
|--------------------|----------|------------------|------------------|
| Barrington         | 513      | 32               | 6.2%             |
| Bristol            | 730      | 54               | 7.4%             |
| Burrillville       | 648      | 57               | 8.8%             |
| Central Falls      | 1,575    | 146              | 9.3%             |
| Charlestown        | 249      | 19               | NA               |
| Coventry           | 1,448    | 110              | 7.6%             |
| Cranston           | 3,916    | 378              | 9.7%             |
| Cumberland         | 1,625    | 122              | 7.5%             |
| East Greenwich     | 573      | 53               | 9.2%             |
| East Providence    | 2,372    | 186              | 7.8%             |
| Exeter             | 244      | 12               | NA               |
| Foster             | 172      | 19               | NA               |
| Glocester          | 344      | 33               | NA               |
| Hopkinton          | 306      | 25               | NA               |
| Jamestown          | 128      | 7                | NA               |
| Johnston           | 1,323    | 97               | 7.3%             |
| Lincoln            | 952      | 90               | 9.5%             |
| Little Compton     | 77       | 11               | NA               |
| Middletown         | 851      | 65               | 7.6%             |
| Narragansett       | 346      | 22               | NA               |
| New Shoreham       | 53       | 3                | NA               |
| Newport            | 1,283    | 109              | 8.5%             |
| North Kingstown    | 1,042    | 73               | 7.0%             |
| North Providence   | 1,635    | 157              | 9.6%             |
| North Smithfield   | 420      | 36               | NA               |
| Pawtucket          | 4,930    | 492              | 10.0%            |
| Portsmouth         | 570      | 43               | 7.5%             |
| Providence         | 12,724   | 1,266            | 9.9%             |
| Richmond           | 319      | 29               | NA               |
| Scituate           | 359      | 35               | NA               |
| Smithfield         | 620      | 38               | 6.1%             |
| South Kingstown    | 874      | 60               | 6.9%             |
| Tiverton           | 525      | 48               | 9.1%             |
| Warren             | 454      | 44               | NA               |
| Warwick            | 3,844    | 317              | 8.2%             |
| West Greenwich     | 231      | 15               | NA               |
| West Warwick       | 1,754    | 151              | 8.6%             |
| Westerly           | 927      | 60               | 6.5%             |
| Woonsocket         | 2,908    | 284              | 9.8%             |
| Unknown            | 104      | 7                | NA               |
| Four Core Cities   | 22,137   | 2,188            | 9.9%             |
| Remainder of State | 31,727   | 2,610            | 8.2%             |
| Rhode Island       | 53,968   | 4,805            | 8.9%             |

### Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, Maternal and Child Health Database, 2011-2015. Data for births in 2015 are provisional and 2014 data do not include births among Rhode Island residents that occurred out-of-state.

The denominator is the total number of live births to Rhode Island residents from 2011-2015.

\*Beginning in 2015, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Rhode Island Department of Health transitioned to a new standard for estimating the gestational age of the newborn. The new measure – the obstetric estimate of gestation at delivery (OE) – replaces the measure based on the date of the last normal menses (LMP).

The 2011-2015 five year preterm birth percentage and the single year average are measured by OE. Because of this change, preterm birth data reported prior to the 2016 Factbook are not comparable. National preterm birth data use the OE measurement as of the 2007 data year at the time of publication of this Factbook

NA: Rates should not be calculated due to small numbers and the lack of statistical reliability.

Unknown: Births were to Rhode Island residents, but specific city/town information was unavailable.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

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# Low Birthweight Infants

## DEFINITION

*Low birthweight infants* is the percentage of infants born weighing less than 2,500 grams (5 pounds, 8 ounces). The data are reported by place of mother's residence, not place of infant's birth.

## SIGNIFICANCE

An infant's birthweight is a key indicator of newborn health. Infants born weighing less than 5 pounds, 8 ounces are at greater risk for physical and developmental problems than infants of normal weights. Factors that influence infant birthweight include maternal smoking, poverty, periodontal health, level of educational attainment, violence, stress, prenatal nutrition, and environmental hazards.<sup>1,2,3</sup>

Low birthweight often is a result of a premature birth but also can occur after a full-term pregnancy. In 2015 in the U.S., 58.1% of all preterm infants (under 37 weeks gestation) were born at low birthweight, while 2.8% of full-term infants (37 to 41 weeks gestation) were born at low birthweight.<sup>4</sup>

Cigarette smoking during pregnancy is a leading cause of low birthweight.<sup>5,6</sup> In Rhode Island, 7.4% of babies born between 2011 and 2015 had mothers who smoked during their pregnancy. During that time, Rhode Island smokers (12.9%) were nearly twice as likely to deliver a low birthweight infant as women who did not smoke (6.8%).<sup>7</sup>

Children born at low birthweight face greater risks of physical and developmental health problems and death than those born at normal birthweight. Children born at very low birthweight (less than 1,500 grams or 3.3 pounds) are more than 100 times more likely to die within the first year of life than infants of normal birthweight. Those who survive are at significantly higher risk of severe problems, including physical and sensory difficulties, developmental delays, and cognitive impairments. Low birthweight babies are also at greater risk for long-term cognitive problems and school difficulties than their peers.<sup>8,9,10</sup>

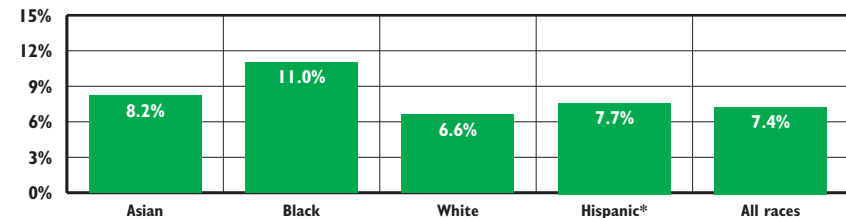
In the U.S. in 2015, 8.1% of infants were born at low birthweight, which was a 16% increase from 7.0% in 1990. Rhode Island's low birthweight rate increased from 6.2% in 1990 to 7.6% in 2015, a 23% increase.<sup>11,12</sup> The *Healthy People 2020* national target is 7.8%.<sup>13</sup>

| Low Birthweight Infants |      |      |
|-------------------------|------|------|
|                         | 2005 | 2015 |
| RI                      | 7.8% | 7.6% |
| US                      | 8.2% | 8.1% |
| National Rank*          | 20th |      |
| New England Rank**      | 5th  |      |

\*1st is best; 50th is worst  
 \*\*1st is best; 6th is worst

Source: For 2015: Martin, J. A., et al. (2017). Births: Final data for 2015. *NVSR*, 66(1), 1-69. For 2005: Martin, J. A., et al. (2007). Births: Final data for 2005. *NVSR*, 56(6), 1-104.

Low Birthweight Infants by Race/Ethnicity, Rhode Island, 2011-2015



Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, Maternal and Child Health Database, 2011-2015. \*Hispanic infants can be of any race. Data for births in 2015 are provisional.

- ◆ There are racial and ethnic disparities in rates of low birthweight.<sup>14</sup> In Rhode Island between 2011 and 2015, 11.0% of Black infants, 8.2% of Asian infants, and 7.7% of Hispanic infants were born at low birthweight, compared to 6.6% of White infants.<sup>15</sup>
- ◆ Factors that persist throughout a woman's life, such as increased stress, insufficient health care, and/or lack of social supports, have been shown to increase the likelihood of delivering a low birthweight baby, particularly among Black women and other racial and ethnic minorities.<sup>16,17</sup>
- ◆ Between 2011 and 2015 in Rhode Island, 8.9% of births among women under age 20 were low birthweight compared to 7.4% of those over age 20; 8.6% of infants born to women living in the four core cities were low birthweight compared to 6.6% in the remainder of the state; and 8.3% of infants born to women with a high school degree or less were low birthweight, compared to 6.3% of those born to women with higher education levels.<sup>18</sup>
- ◆ Among women with private health insurance coverage in Rhode Island between 2011 and 2015, 6.5% of births were low birthweight, compared with 8.3% of those with public insurance (RIte Care or Medicaid) and 13.0% of births to women with no insurance.<sup>19</sup>
- ◆ Rhode Island women who deliver a low birthweight infant are more likely to report smoking while pregnant, delayed or no prenatal care, a depression diagnosis, and intimate partner violence than those with a normal weight baby, as well as health issues during their pregnancy such as high blood pressure, hypertension, preeclampsia, or toxemia.<sup>20</sup>
- ◆ Between 2011 and 2015 in Rhode Island, 1.5% of all live births were born at very low birthweight (less than 1,500 grams).<sup>21</sup>

Table 20. Low Birthweight Infants, Rhode Island, 2011-2015

| CITY/TOWN          | # BIRTHS | # LOW BIRTHWEIGHT | % LOW BIRTHWEIGHT |
|--------------------|----------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Barrington         | 513      | 22                | 4.3%              |
| Bristol            | 730      | 43                | 5.9%              |
| Burrillville       | 648      | 42                | 6.5%              |
| Central Falls      | 1,575    | 123               | 7.8%              |
| Charlestown        | 249      | 8                 | NA                |
| Coventry           | 1,448    | 93                | 6.4%              |
| Cranston           | 3,916    | 312               | 8.0%              |
| Cumberland         | 1,625    | 92                | 5.7%              |
| East Greenwich     | 573      | 46                | 8.0%              |
| East Providence    | 2,372    | 157               | 6.6%              |
| Exeter             | 244      | 10                | NA                |
| Foster             | 172      | 12                | NA                |
| Glocester          | 344      | 19                | NA                |
| Hopkinton          | 306      | 15                | NA                |
| Jamestown          | 128      | 5                 | NA                |
| Johnston           | 1,323    | 88                | 6.7%              |
| Lincoln            | 952      | 69                | 7.2%              |
| Little Compton     | 77       | 5                 | NA                |
| Middletown         | 851      | 49                | 5.8%              |
| Narragansett       | 346      | 21                | NA                |
| New Shoreham       | 53       | 4                 | NA                |
| Newport            | 1,283    | 94                | 7.3%              |
| North Kingstown    | 1,042    | 68                | 6.5%              |
| North Providence   | 1,635    | 127               | 7.8%              |
| North Smithfield   | 420      | 33                | NA                |
| Pawtucket          | 4,930    | 443               | 9.0%              |
| Portsmouth         | 570      | 37                | 6.5%              |
| Providence         | 12,724   | 1101              | 8.7%              |
| Richmond           | 319      | 21                | NA                |
| Scituate           | 359      | 21                | NA                |
| Smithfield         | 620      | 31                | 5.0%              |
| South Kingstown    | 874      | 50                | 5.7%              |
| Tiverton           | 525      | 27                | 5.1%              |
| Warren             | 454      | 37                | NA                |
| Warwick            | 3,844    | 242               | 6.3%              |
| West Greenwich     | 231      | 13                | NA                |
| West Warwick       | 1,754    | 134               | 7.6%              |
| Westerly           | 927      | 55                | 5.9%              |
| Woonsocket         | 2,908    | 245               | 8.4%              |
| Unknown            | 104      | 4                 | NA                |
| Four Core Cities   | 22,137   | 1,912             | 8.6%              |
| Remainder of State | 31,727   | 2,102             | 6.6%              |
| Rhode Island       | 53,968   | 4,018             | 7.4%              |

### Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, Maternal and Child Health Database, 2011-2015. Data for births in 2015 are provisional and 2014 birth data do not include births among Rhode Island residents that occurred out-of-state.

The denominator is the total number of live births to Rhode Island residents between 2011 and 2015.

NA: Rates should not be calculated due to small numbers and the lack of statistical reliability.

Unknown: Births were to Rhode Island residents, but specific city/town information was unavailable.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

### References

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- <sup>8,15</sup> *Low and very low birthweight infants*. (2016). Washington, DC: ChildTrends.
- <sup>9</sup> Matthews, T. J., MacDorman, M. F., & Thoma, M. E. (2015). Infant mortality statistics from the 2013 period linked birth/infant death data set. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 64(9), 1-30.
- <sup>10</sup> *Child health USA 2014*. (2015). Rockville, MD: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Maternal and Child Health Bureau.
- <sup>12</sup> The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, datacenter.kidscount.org
- <sup>16</sup> Lu, M. C., et al. (2010). Closing the black-white gap in birth outcomes: A life-course approach. *Ethnicity & Disease*, 20, 62-76.
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# Infant Mortality

## DEFINITION

*Infant mortality* is the number of deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births. The data are reported by place of mother's residence, not place of infant's birth.

## SIGNIFICANCE

Infant mortality rates are associated with maternal health, quality of and access to medical care, socioeconomic conditions, and public health practices.<sup>1</sup> Communities with high poverty and disadvantaged social conditions tend to have higher infant mortality rates than more advantaged neighborhoods.<sup>2</sup>

The five main causes of infant death in the U.S. — congenital malformations, low birthweight, maternal complications, sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), and unintentional injuries — account for 57% of all infant deaths.<sup>3</sup> Congenital malformations are the leading cause of infant death in the U.S. for all groups, except for non-Hispanic Black and Puerto Rican women, for whom low birthweight was the leading cause. These two ethnic groups also experienced high rates of infant deaths due to preterm-related causes. In both the U.S. and Rhode Island, non-Hispanic Black women had twice the infant mortality rate of non-Hispanic White women.<sup>4</sup>

The U.S. infant mortality rate declined from 26.0 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1960 to a low of 5.9 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2015, due to improvements in healthier behaviors, medical advances, improved access to care, and economic growth.<sup>5,6,7,8</sup> Relative to other industrialized countries, the U.S. has made slower progress at reducing infant mortality due in part to a relatively high number of preterm births resulting in infant mortality.<sup>9,10</sup>

The overall infant mortality rate in Rhode Island between 2011 and 2015 was 5.9 deaths per 1,000 live births. The infant mortality rate was 7.6 per 1,000 live births in the four core cities, compared with 4.5 per 1,000 live births in the remainder of the state. Mothers with a high school degree or less had a higher infant mortality rate (5.8 per 1,000 live births) than mothers with higher educational attainment (4.8 per 1,000 live births) between 2011-2015.<sup>11</sup>

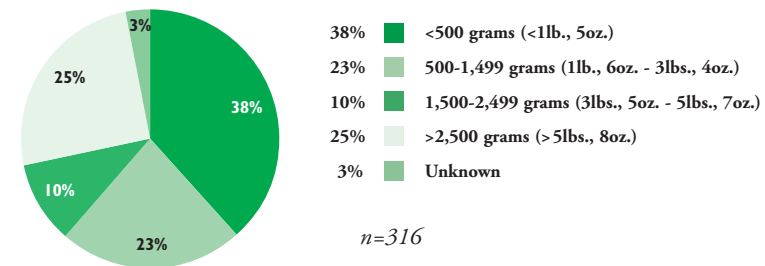
| Infant Mortality Rate<br>(rate per 1,000 live births) |      |      |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------|------|
|                                                       | 2005 | 2015 |
| RI                                                    | 6.5  | 5.6  |
| US                                                    | 6.9  | 5.9  |
| National Rank*                                        |      | 18th |
| New England Rank**                                    |      | 4th  |

\*1st is best; 50th is worst

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

Source: The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, [datacenter.kidscount.org](http://datacenter.kidscount.org)

Infant Mortality by Birthweight, Rhode Island, 2011-2015



Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, Maternal and Child Health Database, 2011-2015. Data for births in 2015 are provisional. Totals may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

- ◆ Between 2011 and 2015, 316 infants died in Rhode Island before their first birthday, a rate of 5.9 per 1,000 live births. This is an improvement from the 2010-2014 infant mortality rate of 6.2 per 1,000 live births (when there were 338 infant deaths). Between 2011 and 2015, 72% of infants who died during this time period were low birthweight, 25% were born at normal weights, and 3% had unknown birthweights.<sup>12</sup>
- ◆ Preterm birth is the leading cause of infant death in Rhode Island.<sup>13</sup> Between 2011 and 2015, 70% (222) of all infant deaths were preterm (occurring before the 37th week).<sup>14</sup>
- ◆ Of the 316 infant deaths between 2011 and 2015 in Rhode Island, 76% (239) occurred in the neonatal period (during the first 27 days of life).<sup>15</sup> Generally, infant deaths in the neonatal period are related to short gestation and low birthweight (less than 2,500 grams), malformations at birth, and/or conditions occurring in the perinatal period.<sup>16</sup>
- ◆ Between 2011 and 2015, 24% (77) of the 316 infant deaths in Rhode Island occurred in the post-neonatal period (between 28 days and one year after delivery).<sup>17</sup>
- ◆ Racial and ethnic disparities exist in infant mortality. In Rhode Island between 2011 and 2015, the Black infant mortality rate was 9.5 deaths per 1,000 live births, the Asian infant mortality rate was 5.9 per 1,000 live births, and the White infant mortality rate was 4.4 per 1,000 live births. The Hispanic infant mortality rate was 5.8 per 1,000 live births, compared with 5.2 deaths per 1,000 live births among non-Hispanics in Rhode Island.<sup>18</sup>

## Reducing Infant Mortality

◆ Comprehensive state initiatives to reduce infant mortality should include the following seven broad strategies: improve health promotion efforts; ensure quality of care for all women and infants; improve maternal risk screening for all women of reproductive age; enhance service integration for women and infants; improve access to health care of women before, during and after pregnancy; develop data systems to understand and inform efforts; and promote social equity.<sup>19</sup>

◆ Infant mortality is a result of a variety of factors and interventions to prevent infant mortality should occur at multiple levels, including individual education and counseling, ongoing evidence-based clinical interventions, long-lasting health promoting actions, creating health-promoting environments, and socioeconomic interventions to eliminate disparities.<sup>20</sup>

◆ Participation in enhanced prenatal and postnatal care programs, such as evidence-based family home visiting programs, have been shown to reduce the risk of infant death.<sup>21</sup> As of October 2016, there were 1,043 families enrolled in one of the evidence-based family home visiting programs coordinated by the Rhode Island Department of Health.<sup>22</sup>

Table 21. Infant Mortality by City/Town, Rhode Island, 2011-2015

| CITY/TOWN          | # OF BIRTHS | # OF INFANT DEATHS | RATE PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS |
|--------------------|-------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Barrington         | 513         | 0                  | NA                         |
| Bristol            | 730         | 1                  | NA                         |
| Burrillville       | 648         | 3                  | NA                         |
| Central Falls      | 1,575       | 9                  | NA                         |
| Charlestown        | 249         | 2                  | NA                         |
| Coventry           | 1,448       | 6                  | NA                         |
| Cranston           | 3,916       | 19                 | 4.9                        |
| Cumberland         | 1,625       | 10                 | NA                         |
| East Greenwich     | 573         | 6                  | NA                         |
| East Providence    | 2,372       | 11                 | NA                         |
| Exeter             | 244         | 0                  | NA                         |
| Foster             | 172         | 1                  | NA                         |
| Glocester          | 344         | 2                  | NA                         |
| Hopkinton          | 306         | 0                  | NA                         |
| Jamestown          | 128         | 0                  | NA                         |
| Johnston           | 1,323       | 9                  | NA                         |
| Lincoln            | 952         | 6                  | NA                         |
| Little Compton     | 77          | 0                  | NA                         |
| Middletown         | 851         | 2                  | NA                         |
| Narragansett       | 346         | 0                  | NA                         |
| New Shoreham       | 53          | 0                  | NA                         |
| Newport            | 1,283       | 9                  | NA                         |
| North Kingstown    | 1,042       | 2                  | NA                         |
| North Providence   | 1,635       | 8                  | NA                         |
| North Smithfield   | 420         | 2                  | NA                         |
| Pawtucket          | 4,930       | 43                 | 8.7                        |
| Portsmouth         | 570         | 5                  | NA                         |
| Providence         | 12,724      | 97                 | 7.6                        |
| Richmond           | 319         | 6                  | NA                         |
| Scituate           | 359         | 0                  | NA                         |
| Smithfield         | 620         | 0                  | NA                         |
| South Kingstown    | 874         | 1                  | NA                         |
| Tiverton           | 525         | 1                  | NA                         |
| Warren             | 454         | 2                  | NA                         |
| Warwick            | 3,844       | 19                 | 4.9                        |
| West Greenwich     | 231         | 0                  | NA                         |
| West Warwick       | 1,754       | 6                  | NA                         |
| Westerly           | 927         | 4                  | NA                         |
| Woonsocket         | 2,908       | 20                 | 6.9                        |
| Unknown            | 104         | 4                  | NA                         |
| Four Core Cities   | 22,137      | 169                | 7.6                        |
| Remainder of State | 31,727      | 143                | 4.5                        |
| Total              | 53,968      | 316                | 5.9                        |

### Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, Maternal and Child Health Database, 2011-2015. Data for births in 2015 are provisional and 2014 birth data do not include births among Rhode Island residents that occurred out-of-state.

The denominator is the total number of live births to residents between 2011 and 2015.

NA: Rates should not be calculated due to small numbers and the lack of statistical reliability.

Unknown: Deaths were to Rhode Island residents, but specific city/town information was unavailable.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

### References

- <sup>1</sup> Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics. (2016). *America's children: Key national indicators of well-being, 2016*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.
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- <sup>3,7</sup> Xu, J., Murphy, S. L., Kochanek, K. D., & Arias, E. (2016). Mortality in the United States, 2015. *NCHS Data Brief*, 267, 1-7.
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- <sup>5</sup> MacDorman, M. F. & Rosenberg, H. M. (1993). Trends in infant mortality by cause of death and other characteristics, 1960-88. *National Vital Statistics Reports*, 20(20), 1-51.
- <sup>6</sup> The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, datacenter.kidscount.org
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(continued on page 180)

# Breastfeeding

## DEFINITION

*Breastfeeding* is the percentage of newborn infants who are exclusively breastfed at the time of hospital discharge.

## SIGNIFICANCE

Breastfeeding is widely recognized as the ideal method of feeding and nurturing infants and a critical component in achieving optimal infant and child health, growth, and development.<sup>1,2</sup> National health experts recommend exclusive breastfeeding for six months after birth, continuous breastfeeding for at least 12 months after birth, and thereafter as long as mutually desired by mother and child.<sup>3</sup>

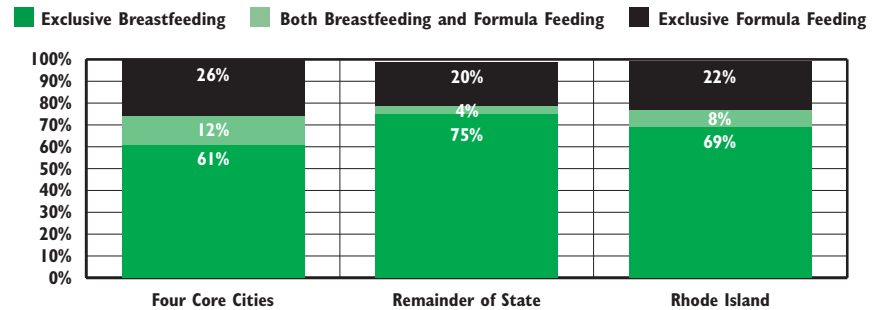
Breastfeeding decreases infant mortality and morbidity. Infant benefits include optimal nutrition and reduced risk for sudden infant death syndrome, infectious disease, and chronic conditions such as childhood obesity, type 1 and 2 diabetes, and otitis media. Breastfeeding benefits mothers by creating a strong bond with infants and decreasing risk for postpartum depression, type 2 diabetes, hypertension, and breast and ovarian cancer. Breastfeeding provides significant social and economic benefits, including reduced cost to the family, reduced health care costs, and reduced employee absenteeism.<sup>4,5,6</sup>

Breastfeeding can be effectively promoted by hospital and other birth facility policies and practices that take place before, during, and after labor and delivery, including access to professional lactation consultants, and involvement in mother-to-mother lactation support networks.<sup>7</sup> In 2015, Women & Infants Hospital became the second-largest hospital in the U.S. to achieve the “Baby-Friendly” designation, which recognizes breastfeeding support and promotion by birth facilities. Rhode Island ranks best in the U.S. in the percentage of babies born at Baby-Friendly hospitals.<sup>8</sup>

Breastfeeding rates generally increase with maternal age, higher educational attainment, and higher income levels.<sup>9</sup> Whether the pregnancy was intended or not also affects breastfeeding. In Rhode Island between 2009-2011, 17% of babies from intended pregnancies were not breastfed at all, compared with 22% of babies from unintended pregnancies.<sup>10</sup>

*Healthy People 2020* sets target breastfeeding rates of 81.9% of infants ever having been breastfed, 60.6% at six months of age, and 34.1% at one year of age.<sup>11</sup> National rates were 81.1% ever breastfed, 51.8% at six months, and 30.7% at 12 months.<sup>12</sup> Rhode Island exceeds national rates in all three, reporting 81.8% of infants ever having been breastfed, 56.0% at six months, and 36.7% at one year of age.

**Breastfeeding and Formula Feeding, Rhode Island, 2011-2015**



Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, Newborn Developmental Risk Screening Program, 2011-2015. Breastfeeding and formula feeding are defined as intended feeding method at hospital discharge. Totals may not sum to 100% because data on feeding methods were not available for all births.

- ◆ Between 2011 and 2015, 69% of new mothers in Rhode Island indicated that they intended to exclusively breastfeed when discharged from the hospital, 22% intended to exclusively formula feed, and 8% intended to use a combination of both.<sup>13</sup> Nearly nine out of ten (87%) new mothers in Rhode Island who were surveyed about three months after giving birth between 2012-2014 reported ever having breastfed. Forty-six percent reported continued breastfeeding at the time of the survey.<sup>14</sup>
- ◆ Rhode Island is one of 45 states with legislation that provides mothers with the explicit right to breastfeed in public places.<sup>15</sup> Since 2015, Rhode Island law prohibits job discrimination based on pregnancy, childbirth, and related medical conditions and requires employers to make reasonable accommodations for workers for conditions related to pregnancy and childbirth, including breastfeeding.<sup>16</sup>
- ◆ In 2014, Rhode Island became the first state in the U.S. to establish licensure for International Board Certified Lactation Consultants (IBCLCs). State-certified and trained lactation consultants provide comprehensive lactation support and counseling for pregnant and postpartum women. In 2015, Rhode Island had 55 IBCLCs.<sup>17,18</sup>
- ◆ Rhode Island is one of four states that have established paid family leave programs, which can support breastfeeding initiation and duration. U.S. mothers who have 12 or more weeks of paid maternity leave are nearly three times more likely to initiate breastfeeding and twice as likely to breastfeed for six months when compared to mothers with no paid leave.<sup>19</sup>

Table 22.

## Breastfeeding, Rhode Island, 2011-2015

| CITY/TOWN          | NUMBER OF BIRTHS SCREENED | NUMBER BREAST AND FORMULA FEEDING | NUMBER EXCLUSIVELY BREASTFEEDING | PERCENT WITH ANY BREASTFEEDING | PERCENT EXCLUSIVELY BREASTFEEDING |
|--------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Barrington         | 503                       | 9                                 | 454                              | 92%                            | 90%                               |
| Bristol            | 697                       | 39                                | 517                              | 80%                            | 74%                               |
| Burrillville       | 602                       | 13                                | 448                              | 77%                            | 74%                               |
| Central Falls      | 1,545                     | 262                               | 893                              | 75%                            | 58%                               |
| Charlestown        | 239                       | 6                                 | 194                              | 84%                            | 81%                               |
| Coventry           | 1,429                     | 40                                | 1,053                            | 76%                            | 74%                               |
| Cranston           | 3,843                     | 265                               | 2,753                            | 79%                            | 72%                               |
| Cumberland         | 1,511                     | 62                                | 1,172                            | 82%                            | 78%                               |
| East Greenwich     | 567                       | 10                                | 471                              | 85%                            | 83%                               |
| East Providence    | 2,316                     | 126                               | 1,634                            | 76%                            | 71%                               |
| Exeter             | 241                       | 14                                | 197                              | 88%                            | 82%                               |
| Foster             | 164                       | 7                                 | 133                              | 85%                            | 81%                               |
| Glocester          | 333                       | 12                                | 253                              | 80%                            | 76%                               |
| Hopkinton          | 311                       | 4                                 | 266                              | 87%                            | 86%                               |
| Jamestown          | 125                       | 0                                 | 119                              | 95%                            | 95%                               |
| Johnston           | 1,303                     | 66                                | 896                              | 74%                            | 69%                               |
| Lincoln            | 920                       | 35                                | 697                              | 80%                            | 76%                               |
| Little Compton     | 61                        | 1                                 | 49                               | 82%                            | 80%                               |
| Middletown         | 805                       | 28                                | 655                              | 85%                            | 81%                               |
| Narragansett       | 339                       | 16                                | 279                              | 87%                            | 82%                               |
| New Shoreham       | 51                        | 3                                 | 46                               | 96%                            | 90%                               |
| Newport            | 1,194                     | 72                                | 871                              | 79%                            | 73%                               |
| North Kingstown    | 1,037                     | 32                                | 830                              | 83%                            | 80%                               |
| North Providence   | 1,606                     | 82                                | 1,141                            | 76%                            | 71%                               |
| North Smithfield   | 386                       | 9                                 | 319                              | 85%                            | 83%                               |
| Pawtucket          | 4,723                     | 556                               | 2,961                            | 74%                            | 63%                               |
| Portsmouth         | 518                       | 6                                 | 438                              | 86%                            | 85%                               |
| Providence         | 12,463                    | 1,672                             | 7,555                            | 74%                            | 61%                               |
| Richmond           | 285                       | 10                                | 241                              | 88%                            | 85%                               |
| Scituate           | 360                       | 12                                | 276                              | 80%                            | 77%                               |
| Smithfield         | 604                       | 15                                | 470                              | 80%                            | 78%                               |
| South Kingstown    | 885                       | 46                                | 709                              | 85%                            | 80%                               |
| Tiverton           | 344                       | 9                                 | 274                              | 82%                            | 80%                               |
| Warren             | 430                       | 13                                | 324                              | 78%                            | 75%                               |
| Warwick            | 3,777                     | 183                               | 2,731                            | 77%                            | 72%                               |
| West Greenwich     | 225                       | 6                                 | 174                              | 80%                            | 77%                               |
| West Warwick       | 1,722                     | 87                                | 1,109                            | 69%                            | 64%                               |
| Westerly           | 823                       | 31                                | 654                              | 83%                            | 79%                               |
| Woonsocket         | 2,726                     | 202                               | 1,622                            | 67%                            | 60%                               |
| Four Core Cities   | 21,457                    | 2,692                             | 13,031                           | 73%                            | 61%                               |
| Remainder of State | 30,556                    | 1,369                             | 22,847                           | 79%                            | 75%                               |
| Rhode Island       | 52,013                    | 4,061                             | 35,878                           | 77%                            | 69%                               |

### Sources of Data for Table/Methodology

Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, Newborn Developmental Risk Screening Program Database and Maternal and Child Health Database, 2011-2015.

Breastfeeding is defined as “breastfeeding as intended feeding method at hospital discharge.” “Percent With Any Breastfeeding” includes infants fed breast milk in combination with formula and those exclusively breastfed.

The number of births screened may differ from the total number of births reported elsewhere in the Factbook as not all documented births received a screening. Births to Rhode Island women that occurred outside Rhode Island are not included.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

### References

- <sup>1,3</sup> American Academy of Pediatrics. (2012). Policy statement: Breastfeeding and the use of human milk. *Pediatrics*, 129(3), 827-841.
- <sup>2,15,17</sup> *Breastfeeding: 2015-2020 Rhode Island strategic plan*. (2015). Providence, RI: Rhode Island Department of Health.
- <sup>4</sup> Lessen, R. & Kavanagh, K. (2015). Position of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics: Promoting and supporting breastfeeding. *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics*, 115(3), 444-449.
- <sup>5,9</sup> *Breastfeeding*. (2016). Washington, DC: Child Trends.
- <sup>6,19</sup> The Center for Law and Social Policy. (2016). *Public policies to support breastfeeding - Paid family leave and workplace lactation accommodations*. Retrieved January 20, 2017, from www.clasp.org
- <sup>7,12</sup> *Breastfeeding report card – Progressing toward national breastfeeding goals - United States, 2016*. (2016). Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- <sup>8</sup> Women & Infants Hospital. (2015). *Women & Infants achieves baby-friendly designation* [Press release]. Retrieved from www.womenandinfants.org
- <sup>10</sup> *Issue brief: Unintended pregnancy among women in Rhode Island, 2009-2011*. (2015). Providence, RI: Rhode Island Department of Health.

(continued on page 180)

# Children with Lead Poisoning

## DEFINITION

*Children with lead poisoning* is the percentage of three-year-old children with a confirmed elevated blood lead level (EBLL,  $\geq 5$   $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ ) at any time prior to December 31, 2016.<sup>1,2</sup> These data are for children eligible to enter kindergarten in the fall of 2018 (i.e., children born between September 1, 2012 and August 31, 2013).

## SIGNIFICANCE

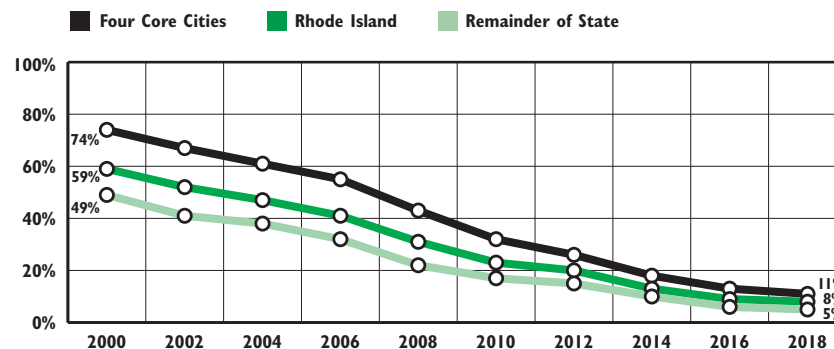
Lead poisoning is a preventable childhood disease. Infants, toddlers, and preschool-age children are most susceptible to the toxic effects of lead because they absorb lead more readily than adults and have inherent vulnerability due to developing central nervous systems.<sup>3</sup> Lead exposure, even at very low levels, can cause irreversible damage including reduced fetal and postnatal growth, decreased hearing, delayed puberty, kidney damage, increased risk for behavioral problems, decreased cognitive abilities, and lower academic performance. Though rare, severe poisoning can result in seizures, comas, and even death.<sup>4,5</sup> The societal costs of childhood lead poisoning include the loss of future earnings due to decreased cognition, and increased medical, special education, and juvenile justice costs.<sup>6,7,8</sup>

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is focused on primary prevention of lead exposure in response to research findings indicating there is no safe blood lead level in children. In an effort to better alert health officials and family members to the dangers of any lead exposure in children, in 2012 the CDC lowered the threshold for which a child is deemed to have an elevated blood lead level from 10  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$  to 5  $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ . This new lower reference value allows parents and health officials to take corrective actions sooner.<sup>9,10</sup>

Although the percentage of children with elevated blood lead levels is declining nationally and locally, low-income and minority children remain the most likely to be lead poisoned.<sup>11,12,13</sup> In Rhode Island, children living in the four core cities (where most poor and minority children reside) are at increased risk for lead exposure because the housing stock tends to be older.<sup>14</sup>

In 2016, 1,201 (4.9%) of the 24,738 Rhode Island children under age six who were screened had confirmed elevated blood lead levels of  $\geq 5$   $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ . Children living in the four core cities (7.0%) were more than twice as likely as children in the remainder of the states (3.2%) to have confirmed elevated blood lead levels  $\geq 5$   $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ .<sup>15</sup>

## Children Entering Kindergarten with History of Elevated\* Blood Lead Level Screening ( $\geq 5$ $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ ), Rhode Island, Four Core Cities, and Remainder of State, 2000-2018



Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Healthy Homes and Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, Children entering kindergarten between 2000 and 2018. \*Elevated blood lead level of  $\geq 5$   $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ .

◆ The number of children with elevated blood lead levels has been steadily declining in all areas of Rhode Island over the past two decades. Compared to the remainder of the state, children living in the four core cities are at an increased risk for lead exposure.<sup>16</sup>

## Lead Exposure and Academic Performance

◆ Exposure to lead has been shown to negatively impact academic performance in early childhood.<sup>17</sup> Rhode Island children with a history of lead exposure, even at low levels, have been shown to have decreased reading readiness at kindergarten entry and diminished reading and math proficiency in the third grade. The most significant declines in academic performance occurred among children with the highest blood lead levels and those living in the four core cities. Children with lead exposure are also at increased risk for absenteeism, grade repetition, and special education services.<sup>18,19</sup>

◆ In an effort to better inform school administrators about the prevalence of lead exposure, the Rhode Island Department of Health and the Rhode Island Department of Education provide detailed reports to superintendents and heads of private schools on rates of lead exposure and immunization among students within their respective districts. Information regarding screenings, regulations, associated risks, and parent communication are also included.<sup>20,21</sup>

Table 23. Lead Poisoning in Children Entering Kindergarten in the Fall of 2018, Rhode Island

| CITY/TOWN          | NUMBER TESTED FOR LEAD POISONING | CONFIRMED WITH BLOOD LEAD LEVEL $\geq 5$ $\mu\text{g/dL}$ |         |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------|
|                    |                                  | NUMBER                                                    | PERCENT |
| Barrington         | 146                              | 10                                                        | 6.8%    |
| Bristol            | 163                              | 9                                                         | 5.5%    |
| Burrillville       | 132                              | 9                                                         | 6.8%    |
| Central Falls      | 342                              | 35                                                        | 10.2%   |
| Charlestown        | 40                               | 3                                                         | 7.5%    |
| Coventry           | 277                              | 8                                                         | 2.9%    |
| Cranston           | 770                              | 45                                                        | 5.8%    |
| Cumberland         | 315                              | 7                                                         | 2.2%    |
| East Greenwich     | 154                              | 6                                                         | 3.9%    |
| East Providence    | 479                              | 52                                                        | 10.9%   |
| Exeter             | 43                               | 0                                                         | 0.0%    |
| Foster             | 29                               | 2                                                         | 6.9%    |
| Glocester          | 63                               | 1                                                         | 1.6%    |
| Hopkinton          | 67                               | 4                                                         | 6.0%    |
| Jamestown          | 33                               | 1                                                         | 3.0%    |
| Johnston           | 255                              | 11                                                        | 4.3%    |
| Lincoln            | 185                              | 5                                                         | 2.7%    |
| Little Compton     | 15                               | 2                                                         | 13.3%   |
| Middletown         | 196                              | 1                                                         | 0.5%    |
| Narragansett       | 58                               | 2                                                         | 3.4%    |
| New Shoreham       | 13                               | 6                                                         | 46.2%   |
| Newport            | 282                              | 17                                                        | 6.0%    |
| North Kingstown    | 215                              | 4                                                         | 1.9%    |
| North Providence   | 276                              | 15                                                        | 5.4%    |
| North Smithfield   | 84                               | 2                                                         | 2.4%    |
| Pawtucket          | 916                              | 82                                                        | 9.0%    |
| Portsmouth         | 133                              | 4                                                         | 3.0%    |
| Providence         | 2,627                            | 348                                                       | 13.2%   |
| Richmond           | 35                               | 1                                                         | 2.9%    |
| Scituate           | 67                               | 3                                                         | 4.5%    |
| Smithfield         | 124                              | 1                                                         | 0.8%    |
| South Kingstown    | 206                              | 11                                                        | 5.3%    |
| Tiverton           | 118                              | 5                                                         | 4.2%    |
| Warren             | 87                               | 2                                                         | 2.3%    |
| Warwick            | 723                              | 24                                                        | 3.3%    |
| West Greenwich     | 38                               | 0                                                         | 0.0%    |
| West Warwick       | 336                              | 14                                                        | 4.2%    |
| Westerly           | 160                              | 12                                                        | 7.5%    |
| Woonsocket         | 565                              | 44                                                        | 7.8%    |
| Unknown Residence  | 2                                | NA                                                        | NA      |
| Four Core Cities   | 4,450                            | 509                                                       | 11.4%   |
| Remainder of State | 6,317                            | 299                                                       | 4.7%    |
| Rhode Island       | 10,769                           | 808                                                       | 7.5%    |

## Significantly Lead Poisoned Children Under Age Six

◆ Starting in 2015, a child is considered to be “significantly lead poisoned” if she or he has a single venous blood test result of  $\geq 15$   $\mu\text{g/dL}$ . The number of children under age six who were significantly lead poisoned has decreased by 78% over the past 12 years, from 349 in 2005 to 76 in 2016.<sup>22</sup>

◆ Starting in 2015, an environmental inspection of a child’s home is offered when a single venous test is  $\geq 15$   $\mu\text{g/dL}$  (versus  $\geq 20$   $\mu\text{g/dL}$  previously). The Rhode Island Department of Health sends certified lead inspectors to determine whether lead hazards are present and works with owners to make the property lead-safe. In 2016, 67 environmental inspections were offered, of which 42 were performed, 12 were refused, seven were pending, and six the child moved.<sup>23</sup>

## Lead Poisoning Screening for Children Age Three

◆ All Rhode Island children must have at least two blood lead screening tests by age three and annual screening through age six. Lead screening is a mandated covered health insurance benefit in Rhode Island. In 2016, 76% of Rhode Island three-year-olds with an active status in KIDSNET received a blood lead test, 56% received two blood tests, and 24% were never tested.<sup>24,25,26</sup>

### Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Rhode Island Department of Health, Healthy Homes and Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.

Data reported in this year’s Factbook is not comparable to editions prior to 2012, due to a change in definition and data improvements within the Healthy Homes and Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.

Data for children entering kindergarten in the fall of 2018 reflect the number of Rhode Island children eligible to enter school in the fall of 2018 (i.e., born between 9/1/12 and 8/31/13).

Children confirmed positive for lead poisoning (blood lead level  $\geq 5$   $\mu\text{g/dL}$ ) are counted if they screened positive with a venous test and/or had a confirmed capillary test at any time in their lives prior to the end of December 2016. The Rhode Island Healthy Homes and Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program recommends that children under age six with a capillary blood lead level of  $\geq 5$   $\mu\text{g/dL}$  receive a confirmatory venous test.

The denominator for percent confirmed is the number of children entering kindergarten in the fall of 2018 who were tested for lead poisoning. Data include both venous and confirmed capillary tests.

Of the 820 children entering kindergarten in 2018 who had an initial blood lead screen of  $\geq 5$   $\mu\text{g/dL}$ , two did not receive a confirmatory second test. Their lead poisoning status is unknown.

Caution should be used with small numbers in numerators and denominators.

Unknown: Children were Rhode Island residents, but specific city/town information was unavailable.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

See Methodology Section for more information.

### References

<sup>110</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). *Blood lead levels in children*. Retrieved February 20, 2017, from www.cdc.gov

<sup>224</sup> Rhode Island Department of Health. (2016). *Childhood lead poisoning prevention program referral intervention process*. Retrieved February 20, 2017, from www.health.ri.gov

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# Children with Asthma

## DEFINITION

*Children with asthma* is the rate of emergency department visits where asthma was the primary diagnosis per 1,000 children under age 18. Data are reported by place of child's residence at the time of the emergency department visit.

## SIGNIFICANCE

Asthma is a chronic respiratory disease that causes treatable episodes of coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath, and chest tightness, which can be life threatening. Asthma attacks can be triggered by respiratory infections, air pollutants, cigarette smoke, allergens, and exposure to cold air or sudden temperature change. While the exact cause of asthma is unknown, various genetic, environmental, birth, and health status factors have been linked to an increased risk for asthma.<sup>1,2,3</sup>

Nationally, asthma is one of the most common chronic conditions among children.<sup>4</sup> After peaking at 9.6% in 2009, asthma prevalence among U.S. children fell to 8.4% in 2015.<sup>5,6</sup> The highest rates of asthma are among males, Black and American Indian/Alaska Native children, and children living in poverty.<sup>7</sup> Racial and ethnic differences in asthma prevalence are believed to be correlated with poverty, exposure to indoor and outdoor air pollution, stress, acute exposure to

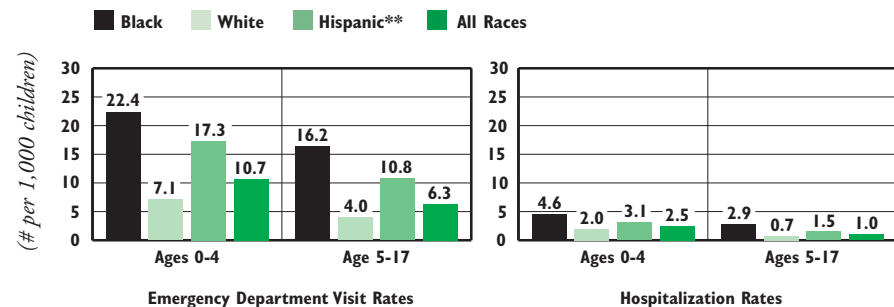
violence, lack of access to preventive medical care, and genetic factors.<sup>8,9</sup>

Compared with adults, children have higher rates for primary care and emergency department visits for asthma, similar hospitalization rates, and lower death rates.<sup>10</sup> Asthma remains the third-ranked cause of hospitalization for children under age 15, and one of the leading causes of school absenteeism.<sup>11</sup>

Proper asthma management requires continued assessment and monitoring, patient education, environmental control, and appropriate medication. Health care providers should work with the child and family to create an asthma action plan, which provides instruction on how to avoid asthma triggers and how to use medications properly. An asthma action plan, if adhered to and supported by enhanced care and community-based interventions, can improve health outcomes and reduce costly asthma hospitalizations.<sup>12,13,14,15,16</sup>

Rhode Island middle and high school staff provide information and referrals about asthma, including health care referrals for students diagnosed with or suspected of having asthma (73% reported doing so in 2016), providing asthma education to students (53%), using an assessment tool to evaluate school policies, activities, and programs related to asthma (31%), and providing families with information on asthma (18%).<sup>17</sup>

**Asthma\* Emergency Department and Hospitalization Rates, by Age and Race/Ethnicity, Rhode Island Children, 2011-2015**



Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Hospital Discharge Database, 2011-2015; U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010. \*Rates are for primary diagnosis of asthma. \*\*Hispanic children can be of any race. \*See note regarding new methodology for calculations, starting with this Factbook.

- ◆ In Rhode Island between 2011 and 2015, Black children, Hispanic children, and children under age five were the most likely to visit the emergency department or be hospitalized as a result of asthma. Children of all ages were more likely to visit the emergency department than to be hospitalized for asthma.<sup>18</sup>
- ◆ In Rhode Island between 2011 and 2015, boys under age 18 had higher asthma emergency department (8.9 per 1,000 boys) and hospitalization (1.7 per 1,000 boys) rates than girls under age 18 (5.9 and 1.1 per 1,000 girls respectively).<sup>19</sup>
- ◆ Among all children who had an emergency department visit for a primary diagnosis of asthma in Rhode Island between 2011 and 2015, 58% had RIte Care/Medicaid coverage, 26% had private health insurance, 6% were self-pay (which could mean they were uninsured or that their insurance did not cover the cost of care), and 10% were unknown. Among hospital admissions during that time, 48% had RIte Care/Medicaid coverage, 40% had private health insurance, 6% were self-pay, and 6% were unknown.<sup>20</sup>
- ◆ In 2014, Rhode Island parents reported higher rates of current asthma prevalence of their children (11%) than the national average (9%). Rhode Island has the seventh highest self-reported child asthma prevalence among ranked states.<sup>21</sup>

Table 24. Asthma Emergency Department Visits for Children Under Age 18, Rhode Island, 2011-2015

| CITY/TOWN          | ESTIMATED # OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 | # OF CHILD EMERGENCY DEPT. VISITS WITH PRIMARY ASTHMA DIAGNOSIS | RATE OF CHILD EMERGENCY DEPT. VISITS WITH PRIMARY ASTHMA DIAGNOSIS, PER 1,000 CHILDREN |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Barrington         | 4,597                                | 81                                                              | 3.5                                                                                    |
| Bristol            | 3,623                                | 50                                                              | 2.8                                                                                    |
| Burrillville       | 3,576                                | 53                                                              | 3.0                                                                                    |
| Central Falls      | 5,644                                | 339                                                             | 12.0                                                                                   |
| Charlestown        | 1,506                                | 37                                                              | 4.9                                                                                    |
| Coventry           | 7,770                                | 150                                                             | 3.9                                                                                    |
| Cranston           | 16,414                               | 532                                                             | 6.5                                                                                    |
| Cumberland         | 7,535                                | 124                                                             | 3.3                                                                                    |
| East Greenwich     | 3,436                                | 36                                                              | 2.1                                                                                    |
| East Providence    | 9,177                                | 252                                                             | 5.5                                                                                    |
| Exeter             | 1,334                                | 25                                                              | 3.7 <sup>^</sup>                                                                       |
| Foster             | 986                                  | 9                                                               | NA                                                                                     |
| Glocester          | 2,098                                | 17                                                              | 1.6 <sup>^</sup>                                                                       |
| Hopkinton          | 1,845                                | 41                                                              | 4.4                                                                                    |
| Jamestown          | 1,043                                | 15                                                              | 2.9 <sup>^</sup>                                                                       |
| Johnston           | 5,480                                | 166                                                             | 6.1                                                                                    |
| Lincoln            | 4,751                                | 101                                                             | 4.3                                                                                    |
| Little Compton     | 654                                  | 7                                                               | NA                                                                                     |
| Middletown         | 3,652                                | 124                                                             | 6.8                                                                                    |
| Narragansett       | 2,269                                | 46                                                              | 4.1                                                                                    |
| New Shoreham       | 163                                  | 1                                                               | NA                                                                                     |
| Newport            | 4,083                                | 221                                                             | 10.8                                                                                   |
| North Kingstown    | 6,322                                | 118                                                             | 3.7                                                                                    |
| North Providence   | 5,514                                | 187                                                             | 6.8                                                                                    |
| North Smithfield   | 2,456                                | 40                                                              | 3.3                                                                                    |
| Pawtucket          | 16,575                               | 792                                                             | 9.6                                                                                    |
| Portsmouth         | 3,996                                | 72                                                              | 3.6                                                                                    |
| Providence         | 41,634                               | 2,971                                                           | 14.3                                                                                   |
| Richmond           | 1,849                                | 22                                                              | 2.4 <sup>^</sup>                                                                       |
| Scituate           | 2,272                                | 30                                                              | 2.6                                                                                    |
| Smithfield         | 3,625                                | 37                                                              | 2.0                                                                                    |
| South Kingstown    | 5,416                                | 105                                                             | 3.9                                                                                    |
| Tiverton           | 2,998                                | 19                                                              | 1.3 <sup>^</sup>                                                                       |
| Warren             | 1,940                                | 51                                                              | 5.3                                                                                    |
| Warwick            | 15,825                               | 418                                                             | 5.3                                                                                    |
| West Greenwich     | 1,477                                | 24                                                              | 3.2 <sup>^</sup>                                                                       |
| West Warwick       | 5,746                                | 249                                                             | 8.7                                                                                    |
| Westerly           | 4,787                                | 165                                                             | 6.9                                                                                    |
| Woonsocket         | 9,888                                | 579                                                             | 11.7                                                                                   |
| Unknown            | 0                                    | 2                                                               | NA                                                                                     |
| Four Core Cities   | 73,741                               | 4,681                                                           | 12.7                                                                                   |
| Remainder of State | 150,215                              | 3,625                                                           | 4.8                                                                                    |
| Rhode Island       | 223,956                              | 8,308                                                           | 7.4                                                                                    |

## Child Hospitalizations for Asthma, Rhode Island

◆ In Rhode Island between 2011 and 2015, there were 1,579 hospitalizations with primary asthma diagnosis of children under age 18, a rate of 1.4 per 1,000 children. The rate of primary asthma hospitalizations was twice as high in the four core cities (2.1 per 1,000 children) than in the remainder of the state (1.1 per 1,000 children).<sup>22</sup>

◆ Primary asthma hospitalization rates for children were highest in Providence (2.5 per 1,000 children), East Providence (2.2), Johnston (1.9), Central Falls (1.8), Barrington (1.5), North Providence (1.4), Pawtucket (1.4), and Woonsocket (1.4) between 2011 and 2015.<sup>23</sup>

### Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Rhode Island Department of Health, Hospital Discharge Database, 2011-2015.

The Rhode Island Department of Health defines emergency department visits with primary asthma diagnosis as those resulting in a home discharge or another facility, but not admitted to the hospital as an inpatient. As such, data are not comparable to previous Factbooks.

The denominator used to compute the 2011-2015 rate of asthma emergency department visits is the number of children according to the 2010 U.S. Census, multiplied by five.

<sup>^</sup>The Rhode Island Department of Health recently implemented a new reporting policy for rates with small numbers. Rates with a relative standard error (RSE) between 20 and <30% are considered unstable. They are indicated by the <sup>^</sup> notation and need to be interpreted with caution. Rates with RSEs 30% or higher are considered unreliable and were suppressed from the report.

NA: Rates should not be calculated due to small numbers and the lack of statistical reliability.

Unknown: Children were Rhode Island residents, but specific city/town information was unavailable.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

### References

<sup>14</sup> *Asthma*. (2016). Washington, DC: Child Trends.

<sup>2</sup> *The burden of asthma in Rhode Island*. (2014). Providence, RI: Rhode Island Department of Health, Asthma Control Program.

<sup>38</sup> Ekerholm, S., Pearlman, D. N., Robinson, D., Sutton, N., & Goldman, D. (2012). *Measuring up: A health surveillance update on Rhode Island children with asthma*. Providence, RI: Rhode Island Department of Health, Division of Community, Family Health and Equity, Asthma Control Program.

<sup>57</sup> National Health Interview Survey. (2015). *Table C-1a. Age-adjusted percentages (with standard errors) of ever having asthma and still having asthma for children under age 18 years, by selected characteristics: United States, 2015*. Retrieved March 13, 2017, from www.cdc.gov

(continued on page 180)

# Housing and Health

## DEFINITION

*Housing and health* is the percentage of children under age 18 who live in low-income families that reside in older housing, defined as housing built before 1980. Low-income families are those with incomes less than 200% of the federal poverty level.

## SIGNIFICANCE

Homes that are dry, clean, pest free, safe, contaminant free, well-ventilated, well-maintained, and thermally-controlled can provide a healthy environment for children and residents.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup> Healthy housing also protects families from weather, environmental hazards, and injury and provides a safe place for children to eat, sleep, play, and grow.<sup>3</sup>

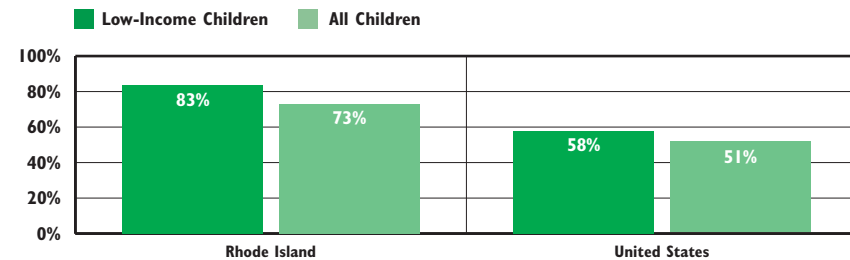
Unhealthy housing can cause or intensify many health conditions. Studies have connected poor quality construction, utility deficiencies, water intrusion, lead paint, radon, and pests to respiratory illnesses, asthma, unintentional injuries, lead poisoning, and cancer. Children under age 14, low-income children, and minority children under age five are at increased risk for fall injuries due to unsafe sleep and home environments, including aging and deteriorating housing.<sup>4,5,6</sup>

Poor quality housing is also a strong predictor of emotional and behavioral problems in low-income children and youth as well as academic achievement. Adolescents living in poorer quality homes have lower reading and math proficiency than their peers.<sup>7</sup>

The quality and stability of children's homes can have long-term effects on children. Lack of adequate and affordable housing puts safe, healthy, well-maintained homes out of reach for many families. Families may be forced to move frequently in search of better, more affordable housing, or to raise their children in overcrowded and unsafe environments that can interfere with their growth, development, health, and academic performance. Overcrowded housing is associated with mental health concerns, stress, sleep problems, injury, and exposure to disease, while multiple moves are associated with behavioral and mental health concerns, academic difficulties, and substance use.<sup>8</sup>

Adopting a comprehensive "healthy homes" approach that addresses multiple housing deficiencies simultaneously can help prevent housing-related injuries and illnesses, reduce health costs, and improve children's quality of life. Because the causes of many health conditions related to the home environment are interconnected, it can be cost-effective to address multiple hazards simultaneously.<sup>9,10</sup>

## Children Living in Older Housing\*, 2011-2015, Rhode Island and the United States



Source: Population Reference Bureau analysis of 2011-2015 American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microsample (PUMS) data. \*Older housing is defined as built before 1980. The ACS reports housing year built by decade, so this is the best available approximation for housing built before 1978 when interior lead paint was banned. Factbooks prior to 2016 are not comparable due to the discontinuation of 3-year ACS data.

◆ **Between 2011 and 2015, Rhode Island had the highest percentage of low-income children (83%) and the second highest percentage of children of all incomes (73%) living in older housing in the U.S., after New York.<sup>11</sup>**

◆ **Lead Poisoning:** Children living in homes built before 1978 are at risk for lead poisoning. Even at low levels, lead exposure can negatively affect a child's health, development, and brain.<sup>12</sup> In 2016, 1,201 (4.9%) of Rhode Island children under age six had a confirmed blood lead level of  $\geq 5$   $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ .<sup>13</sup>

◆ **Asthma:** Asthma is a common chronic condition in children and is a leading cause of school absences and hospitalization for children under age 15 in the U.S.<sup>14</sup> Between 2011 and 2015, there were 4,439 emergency department visits of Rhode Island children ages six and under (10.9 per 1,000) for which asthma was the primary diagnosis.<sup>15</sup>

◆ **Unintentional Injuries:** Falls are the leading cause of non-fatal unintentional injuries among children in the U.S.<sup>16</sup> In 2015, housing-related falls resulted in 2,109 emergency room visits by Rhode Island children age six and under.<sup>17</sup>

◆ **Weatherization Assistance Program:** The program helps eligible households reduce heating bills by providing whole-house energy efficiency and safety services. In 2016, 1,093 Rhode Island children under age 18 benefited from 1,631 completed weatherization projects administered by seven Community Action Program agencies.<sup>18,19</sup>

Table 25.

## Housing and Health, Rhode Island

| CITY/TOWN                 | # OF CHILDREN AGES 6 AND UNDER<br>2010 | CHILDREN WITH LEAD POISONING 2016 |             | PRIMARY ASTHMA ED VISITS 2011-2015 |                | # FALL ED VISITS 2015 | WEATHERIZATION PROJECTS 2016 | % HOUSING STOCK PRE-1980 |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
|                           |                                        | #                                 | %           | #                                  | RATE PER 1,000 |                       |                              |                          |
| Barrington                | 1,213                                  | 9                                 | 1.9%        | 39                                 | 6.4            | 47                    | 19                           | 83%                      |
| Bristol                   | 1,316                                  | 13                                | 3.4%        | 30                                 | 4.6            | 31                    | 27                           | 70%                      |
| Burrillville              | 1,186                                  | 7                                 | 2.2%        | 23                                 | 3.9^           | 15                    | 28                           | 69%                      |
| Central Falls             | 2,374                                  | 53                                | 6.5%        | 188                                | 15.8           | 61                    | 25                           | 88%                      |
| Charlestown               | 493                                    | 1                                 | 1.6%        | 14                                 | 5.7            | 7                     | 14                           | 54%                      |
| Coventry                  | 2,508                                  | 9                                 | 1.6%        | 85                                 | 6.8            | 52                    | 58                           | 67%                      |
| Cranston                  | 5,814                                  | 72                                | 4.3%        | 275                                | 9.5            | 113                   | 197                          | 79%                      |
| Cumberland                | 2,603                                  | 17                                | 2.5%        | 57                                 | 4.4            | 51                    | 25                           | 65%                      |
| East Greenwich            | 930                                    | 4                                 | 1.4%        | 16                                 | 3.4^           | 18                    | 9                            | 66%                      |
| East Providence           | 3,545                                  | 62                                | 5.1%        | 134                                | 7.6            | 91                    | 94                           | 84%                      |
| Exeter                    | 390                                    | 1                                 | 1.2%        | 9                                  | NA             | 4                     | 11                           | 42%                      |
| Foster                    | 315                                    | 1                                 | 1.3%        | 4                                  | NA             | 9                     | 5                            | 67%                      |
| Glocester                 | 633                                    | 3                                 | 2.1%        | 5                                  | NA             | 13                    | 20                           | 67%                      |
| Hopkinton                 | 618                                    | 4                                 | 3.4%        | 16                                 | 5.2^           | 8                     | 12                           | 58%                      |
| Jamestown                 | 287                                    | 1                                 | 2.2%        | 10                                 | NA             | 7                     | 5                            | 65%                      |
| Johnston                  | 1,930                                  | 15                                | 2.8%        | 77                                 | 8.0            | 44                    | 66                           | 65%                      |
| Lincoln                   | 1,490                                  | 9                                 | 2.2%        | 45                                 | 6.0            | 33                    | 24                           | 73%                      |
| Little Compton            | 188                                    | 3                                 | 6.8%        | 3                                  | NA             | 0                     | 6                            | 71%                      |
| Middletown                | 1,331                                  | 11                                | 2.6%        | 57                                 | 8.6            | 57                    | 12                           | 69%                      |
| Narragansett              | 739                                    | 3                                 | 2.9%        | 20                                 | 5.4^           | 12                    | 21                           | 59%                      |
| New Shoreham              | 57                                     | 4                                 | 20.0%       | 1                                  | NA             | 1                     | 0                            | 56%                      |
| Newport                   | 1,792                                  | 25                                | 4.8%        | 145                                | 16.2           | 75                    | 7                            | 84%                      |
| North Kingstown           | 1,965                                  | 8                                 | 1.7%        | 54                                 | 5.5            | 37                    | 34                           | 69%                      |
| North Providence          | 2,040                                  | 20                                | 2.8%        | 104                                | 10.2           | 68                    | 65                           | 73%                      |
| North Smithfield          | 752                                    | 3                                 | 1.5%        | 17                                 | 4.5^           | 18                    | 15                           | 67%                      |
| Pawtucket                 | 6,835                                  | 124                               | 6.1%        | 431                                | 12.6           | 183                   | 179                          | 89%                      |
| Portsmouth                | 1,206                                  | 8                                 | 2.7%        | 33                                 | 5.5            | 39                    | 12                           | 62%                      |
| Providence                | 16,934                                 | 530                               | 8.0%        | 1,693                              | 20.0           | 538                   | 310                          | 84%                      |
| Richmond                  | 635                                    | 5                                 | 6.6%        | 12                                 | 3.8^           | 7                     | 3                            | 46%                      |
| Scituate                  | 608                                    | 4                                 | 2.3%        | 8                                  | NA             | 12                    | 11                           | 66%                      |
| Smithfield                | 1,076                                  | 1                                 | <1%         | 18                                 | 3.3^           | 16                    | 17                           | 61%                      |
| South Kingstown           | 1,707                                  | 14                                | 3.8%        | 53                                 | 6.2            | 30                    | 20                           | 57%                      |
| Tiverton                  | 1,006                                  | 9                                 | 2.6%        | 12                                 | 2.4^           | 6                     | 38                           | 63%                      |
| Warren                    | 727                                    | 17                                | 6.1%        | 21                                 | 5.8^           | 20                    | 16                           | 80%                      |
| Warwick                   | 5,561                                  | 46                                | 3.1%        | 202                                | 7.3            | 160                   | 100                          | 81%                      |
| West Greenwich            | 446                                    | 0                                 | 0.0%        | 9                                  | NA             | 11                    | 9                            | 32%                      |
| West Warwick              | 2,351                                  | 27                                | 4.2%        | 136                                | 11.6           | 73                    | 31                           | 75%                      |
| Westerly                  | 1,735                                  | 11                                | 2.9%        | 77                                 | 8.9            | 34                    | 36                           | 64%                      |
| Woonsocket                | 4,212                                  | 47                                | 3.9%        | 306                                | 14.5           | 108                   | 50                           | 89%                      |
| <i>Four Core Cities</i>   | <i>30,355</i>                          | <i>754</i>                        | <i>7.0%</i> | <i>2,618</i>                       | <i>17.2</i>    | <i>890</i>            | <i>564</i>                   | <i>86%</i>               |
| <i>Remainder of State</i> | <i>51,193</i>                          | <i>447</i>                        | <i>3.2%</i> | <i>1,821</i>                       | <i>7.1</i>     | <i>1,219</i>          | <i>1,067</i>                 | <i>71%</i>               |
| <i>Rhode Island</i>       | <i>81,548</i>                          | <i>1,201</i>                      | <i>4.9%</i> | <i>4,439</i>                       | <i>10.9</i>    | <i>2,109</i>          | <i>1,631</i>                 | <i>75%</i>               |

### Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Children Age Six and Under: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010. Table PCT12.

Children with Lead Poisoning: Rhode Island Department of Health, Healthy Homes and Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, 2016. The numerator is the number of Rhode Island children with a confirmed blood lead level  $\geq 5$   $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$  in calendar year 2016. The denominator is the number of children who were tested in calendar year 2016. Data are for children under age six.

Primary Asthma ED Visits: Rhode Island Department of Health, Hospital Discharge Database, 2011-2015. The Rhode Island Department of Health defines emergency department (ED) visits for children with a primary asthma diagnosis as those resulting in a home discharge or another facility, but not admitted to the hospital as an inpatient. Rates marked by the ^ notation are statistically unstable. For details, see Children with Asthma indicator. Data are for children age six and under.

Number of Housing-Related Falls ED Visits: Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, 2015. Data are for Rhode Island resident children ages six and under.

Weatherization Projects: Rhode Island Department of Human Services, Weatherization Assistance Program data, 2016. Weatherization projects are defined as those receiving a final inspection by end of calendar year 2016. In September 2016, the state of Rhode Island instituted a new integrated eligibility determination system (Unified Health Infrastructure Project/UHIP), which included the Weatherization Assistance Program. Comparisons to previous years should be made with caution.

Housing Stock Pre-1980: Population Reference Bureau analysis of 2011-2015 American Community Survey (ACS) data. Table B25034. Older housing is defined as built before 1980. The ACS reports housing year built by decade, so this is the best available approximation for housing built before 1978 when interior lead paint was banned.

NA: Rates should not be calculated due to small numbers and the lack of statistical reliability.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

References are on page 181.

# Obesity

## DEFINITION

*Obesity* is the percentage of high school students who report having a body mass index (BMI) at or above the 95th percentile for gender and age. Adolescents with a BMI at or above the 95th percentile are considered to be obese. Children and youth with a BMI between the 85th and 95th percentiles are considered to be overweight or at risk for obesity.<sup>1</sup>

## SIGNIFICANCE

Children and adolescents who are overweight or obese are at immediate and/or long-term risk of many health problems, including type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, asthma, joint pain, sleep apnea, and other acute and chronic health problems. Over time, these conditions may contribute to a shorter lifespan. They may also experience social and psychological problems, including depression, bullying, and social marginalization. Obese children and youth are also more likely to repeat a grade, be absent from school, and have reduced academic performance than their peers.<sup>2,3,4,5</sup>

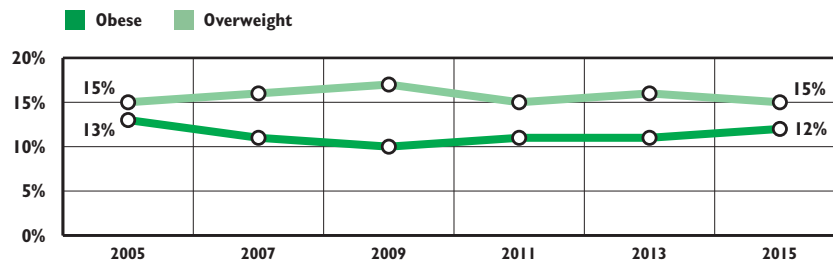
Over the past four decades, the prevalence of childhood obesity in America has more than tripled, and 17% of U.S. children ages 2-19 were obese and 16% were overweight in 2013-2014.<sup>6</sup> No single factor is driving the increased prevalence of childhood obesity; rather it

is the result of complex interactions among many factors, including excess calorie consumption, genes, metabolism, behavior, environment, and culture.<sup>7</sup> Low consumption of healthy foods, high consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages and energy dense foods, low levels of physical activity, and high levels of screen time are all associated with obesity.<sup>8</sup>

The health risks of being overweight and obese can start early and can be long-lasting.<sup>9,10,11</sup> Maternal weight, smoking, and stress during pregnancy increases a baby's risk for being overweight later in childhood.<sup>12</sup> Overweight kindergartners are four times as likely as their healthy-weight peers to become obese by eighth grade, two-thirds of obese fifth graders remain obese in tenth grade, and teenagers who are obese have a greater than 70% risk of being obese as adults.<sup>13,14,15</sup> Prevention and intervention for at risk, overweight, and obese children should occur early and at all ages.<sup>16</sup>

Reducing overweight and obesity will require a comprehensive, multi-system approach. Policy strategies to reduce obesity include improving access to nutritional and affordable foods and beverages, ensuring healthy food in schools, increasing options for physical activity before, during, and after school as well as with early learning programs, and improving access to safe and walkable neighborhoods and recreational areas.<sup>17</sup>

## Obesity and Overweight Among Rhode Island High School Students, 2005-2015



Source: *Youth Risk Behavior Survey*, Rhode Island, 2005-2015. BMI calculated using self-reported student response.

◆ Rhode Island's overall high school obesity and overweight prevalence has not significantly improved or worsened since 2005. In Rhode Island in 2015, 12% of high school students self-reported as obese and 15% self-reported being overweight. Rhode Island ranks seventh best for the prevalence of obesity and ninth best for the prevalence of overweight among ranked states in 2015. In Rhode Island, Hispanic students (19%), males (16%), and Black, non-Hispanic students (15%) were more likely to report being obese than their peers.<sup>18,19</sup>

◆ In October 2016, the BMI values of 10,498 electronic medical health records of children under age 18 residing in Providence who are active patients of a Provide Community Health Center site were examined. The analysis found 26% of Providence children were obese (up from 24% in 2015) and 20% were overweight (same as the prior year). In 2016, obesity varied by age; 24% of children ages two to five, 30% of children ages six to 11, and 25% of children ages 12 to 17 were obese. Among Hispanic children, who accounted for 78% of all patients served, 27% were obese.<sup>20</sup>

## Nutrition and Eating Habits

◆ Rhode Island's strengthened nutritional standards, which were aligned with federal standards in 2016, have resulted in declines in the availability of unhealthy food and drinks. Between 2006 and 2016 among Rhode Island middle and high schools, chocolate candy (down 92%), salty snacks not low in fat (down 81%), the availability of soda or fruit drinks that are not 100% juice (down 80%), sport drinks (down 78%), and 2% or whole milk (down 68%) declined, as did the number of schools allowing the sales of snack foods and beverages in general (down 24%).<sup>21,22</sup>

### Promoting Increased Physical Activity

- ◆ **Recess** is an important component in optimizing a child’s social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development.<sup>23</sup> In 2016, legislation passed requiring at least 20 consecutive minutes of free-play recess daily for Rhode Island public school children in kindergarten through grade six.<sup>24</sup> Prior to this legislation, only 10 public school districts required 20 minutes or more of daily recess.<sup>25</sup>
- ◆ **Physical Education (PE)** curriculum and instruction are designed to develop age-appropriate motor skills, knowledge and behaviors of active living.<sup>26</sup> In Rhode Island, students are required to receive an average of 20 minutes per day of health and PE instruction.<sup>27</sup> Nationally, the daily recommended amount of PE alone is 30 minutes in elementary school and 45 minutes in middle and high school.<sup>28</sup>
- ◆ **Regular physical activity**, including school-based, has been shown to have physical, cognitive and academic benefits, including improved grades and test scores.<sup>29,30</sup> In Rhode Island in 2015, 27% of middle school students and 20% of high school students reported being physically active every day for at least 60 minutes, which is the recommended amount.<sup>31,32</sup> Rhode Island rates are the second (middle school) and third lowest (high school) among ranked states in 2015.<sup>33</sup>

### Sedentary Behavior and Physical Activity, Rhode Island Middle School and High School Students by Race and Ethnicity, 2015

|                                                                | MIDDLE SCHOOL |        |          | HIGH SCHOOL |        |          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|--------|----------|-------------|--------|----------|
|                                                                | BLACK*        | WHITE* | HISPANIC | BLACK*      | WHITE* | HISPANIC |
| 2 or Fewer Days of Physical Education Weekly                   | 40%           | 54%    | 43%      | 49%         | 34%    | 53%      |
| 3 or Fewer Days of Physical Activity** Weekly                  | 38%           | 26%    | 50%      | 52%         | 41%    | 60%      |
| 3 or More Hours of TV on School Days                           | 47%           | 24%    | 36%      | 34%         | 19%    | 29%      |
| 3 or More Hours of Computer*** Time/Video Games on School Days | 60%           | 45%    | 51%      | 39%         | 39%    | 47%      |

Source: 2015 Rhode Island Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Rhode Island Department of Health. \*Non-Hispanic. \*\*Defined as at least 60 minutes per day. \*\*\*Non-school related. Hispanic can be of any race. For gender and overall results, see the 2016 Factbook.

### Obesity in Young Children in Rhode Island

#### Children Enrolled in Head Start

◆ **Head Start** is a federally-funded comprehensive early childhood program for low-income preschool children and their families.<sup>34</sup> In Rhode Island during the 2015-2016 school year, 2,695 children aged three to five were enrolled in a Head Start program. Of those enrolled, 19% were obese, and 26% were overweight.<sup>35</sup> Comparable national data show that 16% of children enrolled in Head Start were obese and 13% were overweight during that time.<sup>36</sup>

#### Children Participating in WIC

◆ **The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)** is a federally funded preventive program that provides eligible participants with nutritious food, nutrition education, and access to health care and social services.<sup>37</sup> In Rhode Island in 2016, 12,428 children aged two to four were enrolled in WIC, 18% of whom were obese and 15% were overweight.<sup>38</sup>

◆ Since 2011, there has been a 21% decline in the number of Rhode Island children ages two to four participating in WIC who are obese. This decline is partially attributed to new federally-mandated food standards as well as availability and use of nutrition education and assessments.<sup>39,40</sup>

◆ **WIC** also tracks the number of children under age five who are at risk for being obese, which is defined as having a biological parent who is obese (i.e., have a BMI over 30). In 2016, 24% of infants (1,674) and 19% of children aged one to four (3,723) enrolled in WIC in Rhode Island were deemed at risk for being obese.<sup>41</sup>

#### References

<sup>1</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2015). *About child and teen BMI*. Retrieved February 27, 2017, from www.cdc.gov

<sup>2,10</sup> *Overweight children and youth*. (2014). Washington, DC: Child Trends.

<sup>3,11</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2016). *Childhood obesity causes and consequences*. Retrieved February 27, 2017, from www.cdc.gov

<sup>4,17</sup> *Accelerating progress in obesity prevention: Solving the weight of the nation*. (2012). Washington, DC: Institute of Medicine of the National Academies.

<sup>5</sup> Halfon, N., Larson, K., & Slusser, W. (2013). Associations between obesity and comorbid mental health, developmental, and physical health conditions in a nationally representative sample of US children aged 10 to 17. *Academic Pediatrics*, 13(1), 6-13.

(continued on page 181)

# Births to Teens

## DEFINITION

*Births to teens* is the number of births to teen girls ages 15 to 19 per 1,000 teen girls. Data are reported by the mother's place of residence, not the place of the infant's birth.

## SIGNIFICANCE

Teen pregnancy and parenting threaten the development of teen parents as well as their children. Teen mothers, particularly younger teen mothers, have difficulty finishing high school and continuing on to college. Only 38% of mothers who give birth before age 18 have a high school diploma by age 22, compared with 89% of young women who had not given birth as a teen. Less than 2% of teen mothers who give birth before age 18 finish college by age 30.<sup>1</sup>

Two-thirds of families headed by teen mothers live in poverty. About one-quarter of teen mothers have a second child within 24 months of the first baby, creating even greater challenges for the mothers to finish school, find and keep a job, and escape poverty.<sup>2</sup> Teen girls in foster care are more than twice as likely as their peers to get pregnant by age 19.<sup>3</sup>

Children of teen parents are at increased risk for low birthweight, preterm delivery, infant mortality, child maltreatment, and placement in foster care.<sup>4,5</sup> They score lower on standardized

tests, are more likely to repeat a grade, and are less likely to complete high school compared with children of older mothers. Sons of teen mothers are twice as likely to spend time in prison and daughters of teen mothers are three times more likely to become teen mothers themselves.<sup>6,7</sup>

Despite improvements in recent years, the U.S. teen birth rate remains higher than many other developed countries.<sup>8</sup> After peaking in 1991, the U.S. teen birth rate reached an historic low in 2015, with decreases among all racial and ethnic backgrounds. Rhode Island's teen birth rate mirrors national trends, peaking in 1993 and reaching an historic low in 2015.<sup>9,10</sup> Nationally and in Rhode Island, fewer teens are having sex and those that are sexually active are more likely to use contraception.<sup>11,12</sup>

In 2015 in Rhode Island, 539 babies were born to mothers under age 20, accounting for 5% of all babies born.<sup>13</sup>

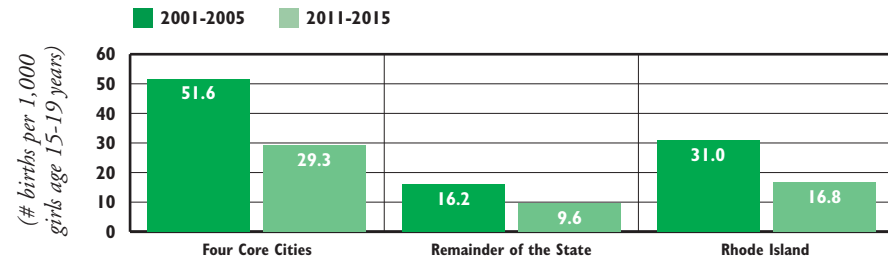
| Teen Birth Rates<br>(rate per 1,000 girls ages 15-19) |      |      |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------|------|
|                                                       | 1991 | 2015 |
| RI                                                    | 44.7 | 14.3 |
| US                                                    | 61.8 | 22.3 |
| National Rank*                                        |      | 7th  |
| New England Rank**                                    |      | 5th  |

\*1st is best; 50th is worst

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

Sources: For 2015: Martin, J. A., et al. (2017). Births: Final data for 2015. *NVSR*, 66(1), 1-69. For 1991: Ventura, S. J., et al. (2014). National and state patterns of teen births in the United States. *NVSR*, 63(4), 1-33.

## Teen Birth Rates, Rhode Island, Five-Year Averages Comparisons: 2001-2005, 2011-2015



Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, 2001-2015. Data for births in 2015 are provisional.

- ◆ The statewide five-year average teen birth rate declined 46% between 2001-2005 and 2011-2015, from 31.0 births per 1,000 teen girls to 16.8. The teen birth rate in the four core cities also declined by 43% during that time.<sup>14</sup>
- ◆ In 2015, the birth rate for U.S. teens (22.3 births per 1,000 teen girls) and Rhode Island teens (14.3 births per 1,000 teen girls) were the lowest ever recorded.<sup>15,16</sup>
- ◆ Despite declines among all racial and ethnic groups, disparities still exist in teen birth rates.<sup>17</sup> In Rhode Island between 2011 and 2015, the teen birth rates for Hispanic (42.6) and Black (30.2) teens were higher than the rates of their White (10.5) and Asian (9.6) peers.<sup>18</sup>

## Repeat Births to Teens, Rhode Island, 2011-2015

| AGE                | TOTAL NUMBER OF BIRTHS | NUMBER OF REPEAT BIRTHS | PERCENT REPEAT BIRTHS |
|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| 15-17              | 916                    | 48                      | 5.2%                  |
| 18-19              | 2,431                  | 446                     | 18.3%                 |
| <b>TOTAL 15-19</b> | <b>3,347</b>           | <b>494</b>              | <b>14.6%</b>          |

Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, 2011-2015.

- ◆ Nationally, 17% of all births to teens ages 15-19 in 2013 were repeat births. Since 1991, repeat teen births have declined 23% nationwide.<sup>19</sup> To continue to reduce repeat teen births, pregnant and parenting teens should be connected with evidence-based family home visiting programs that address a broad range of needs and routinely offer effective postpartum contraception.<sup>20</sup>

## Teen Birth Rates by Age and Location

◆ In Rhode Island between 2011 and 2015, the rate of births to teens ages 15-17 in the core cities (19.4 per 1,000) was more than four times higher than the remainder of state (4.3 per 1,000). The birth rate for teens ages 15-17 in Central Falls was 30.5, compared to Woonsocket at 21.3, Providence at 19.9, Pawtucket at 13.4, and the state rate of 8.9.<sup>21</sup>

◆ The rate of births to Rhode Island teens ages 18-19 was more than twice as high in the core cities (37.0 per 1,000) than the remainder of state (16.7 per 1,000) between 2011 and 2015. The birth rate for teens ages 18-19 in Central Falls was 116.6, compared to Woonsocket at 90.4, Pawtucket at 53.5, Providence at 26.9, and the state rate of 25.3.<sup>22</sup>

◆ Health care providers can play a key role in reducing teen births by integrating comprehensive reproductive health counseling to all women and men of reproductive age, to help reduce unintended pregnancies.<sup>23</sup>

Table 26. Births to Teens, Ages 15-19, Rhode Island, 2011-2015

| CITY/TOWN          | # OF BIRTHS TO GIRLS AGES 15-17 | # OF BIRTHS TO GIRLS AGES 18-19 | # OF BIRTHS TO GIRLS AGES 15-19 | BIRTH RATE PER 1,000 GIRLS AGES 15-19 |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Barrington         | 1                               | 3                               | 4                               | NA                                    |
| Bristol            | 7                               | 18                              | 25                              | 4.5                                   |
| Burrillville       | 5                               | 25                              | 30                              | 12.5                                  |
| Central Falls      | 67                              | 169                             | 236                             | 64.7                                  |
| Charlestown        | 4                               | 18                              | 22                              | 19.2                                  |
| Coventry           | 12                              | 42                              | 54                              | 9.4                                   |
| Cranston           | 41                              | 116                             | 157                             | 12.4                                  |
| Cumberland         | 10                              | 21                              | 31                              | 5.8                                   |
| East Greenwich     | 0                               | 10                              | 10                              | 4.1                                   |
| East Providence    | 26                              | 71                              | 97                              | 14.5                                  |
| Exeter             | 6                               | 13                              | 19                              | 13.5                                  |
| Foster             | 2                               | 5                               | 7                               | 9.1                                   |
| Glocester          | 3                               | 8                               | 11                              | 6.4                                   |
| Hopkinton          | 5                               | 7                               | 12                              | 9.9                                   |
| Jamestown          | 0                               | 1                               | 1                               | NA                                    |
| Johnston           | 11                              | 43                              | 54                              | 13.3                                  |
| Lincoln            | 5                               | 21                              | 26                              | 7.4                                   |
| Little Compton     | 0                               | 1                               | 1                               | NA                                    |
| Middletown         | 11                              | 21                              | 32                              | 14.4                                  |
| Narragansett       | 2                               | 4                               | 6                               | 2.3                                   |
| New Shoreham       | 0                               | 1                               | 1                               | NA                                    |
| Newport            | 21                              | 53                              | 74                              | 14.4                                  |
| North Kingstown    | 9                               | 27                              | 36                              | 8.1                                   |
| North Providence   | 16                              | 55                              | 71                              | 16.0                                  |
| North Smithfield   | 5                               | 8                               | 13                              | 7.0                                   |
| Pawtucket          | 96                              | 242                             | 338                             | 29.0                                  |
| Portsmouth         | 7                               | 6                               | 13                              | 4.3                                   |
| Providence         | 364                             | 871                             | 1,235                           | 24.4                                  |
| Richmond           | 2                               | 10                              | 12                              | 11.2                                  |
| Scituate           | 1                               | 8                               | 9                               | 5.2                                   |
| Smithfield         | 3                               | 10                              | 13                              | 2.5                                   |
| South Kingstown    | 2                               | 28                              | 30                              | 2.1                                   |
| Tiverton           | 5                               | 8                               | 13                              | 6.0                                   |
| Warren             | 4                               | 15                              | 19                              | 14.0                                  |
| Warwick            | 37                              | 86                              | 123                             | 11.0                                  |
| West Greenwich     | 2                               | 8                               | 10                              | 9.0                                   |
| West Warwick       | 32                              | 109                             | 141                             | 36.5                                  |
| Westerly           | 11                              | 40                              | 51                              | 16.6                                  |
| Woonsocket         | 81                              | 226                             | 307                             | 48.7                                  |
| Unknown            | 0                               | 3                               | 3                               | NA                                    |
| Four Core Cities   | 608                             | 1,508                           | 2,116                           | 29.3                                  |
| Remainder of State | 308                             | 920                             | 1,228                           | 9.6                                   |
| Rhode Island       | 916                             | 2,431                           | 3,347                           | 16.8                                  |

### Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, Maternal and Child Health Database, 2011-2015. Data for births in 2015 are provisional and 2014 birth data do not include births among Rhode Island residents that occurred out of state.

The denominators for girls ages 15-19 are from the Census 2010 Summary File 1, which are then multiplied by five.

NA: Rates should not be calculated due to small numbers and the lack of statistical reliability.

In the 2012 Factbook, the denominators for the city/town table were updated with population data from Census 2010. Factbooks prior to 2012 used population data from Census 2000. Changes in rates are affected by the updated population data.

Factbooks published before 2007 reported only births to girls ages 15-17. The definition of teen childbearing was expanded to include teens ages 15-19 to align with reports from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Health Statistics.

Unknown: Births were Rhode Island residents, but specific city/town information was unavailable.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

### References

<sup>1</sup> 2016 public policy agenda. (2016). Washington, DC: The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy.

<sup>2</sup> Teen pregnancy, poverty, and income disparity. (2010). Washington, DC: The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy.

<sup>35</sup> Teen childbearing and child welfare. (2013). Washington, DC: The National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy.

<sup>411</sup> Teen births. (2016). Washington, DC: Child Trends.

<sup>6</sup> Unplanned pregnancies and future opportunities. (2016). Washington, DC: National Conference of State Legislatures.

(continued on page 182)

# Alcohol, Drug, and Tobacco Use

## DEFINITION

*Alcohol, drug, and tobacco use* is the percentage of middle school and high school students who report having used alcohol, illegal drugs, or tobacco products.

## SIGNIFICANCE

The use and/or abuse of substances such as alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs by youth poses health and safety risks to them, their families, their schools, and their communities.<sup>1,2</sup> Rhode Island ranks among the states with the highest percentages of adolescents reporting use of alcohol and many types of illicit drugs.<sup>3</sup>

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.<sup>4,5</sup>

Pathways for becoming a substance user involve the relationship between risk and protective factors, which vary in their effect on different people. Risk factors are associated with increased drug use and include early aggressive behavior, poor school achievement, peer

and parental substance abuse, chaotic home environment, and poverty. Protective factors lessen the risk of drug use, and include a strong parent-child bond, healthy school environment, academic competence, and neighborhood pride.<sup>6,7</sup> For over three decades, Hispanic and Black high school seniors in the U.S. have generally had lower rates of substance use than their White peers, but recently these differences have narrowed due to an increased use of marijuana.<sup>8,9</sup>

Prevention and reduction in teen substance abuse can be achieved by enacting policies that support prevention, screening, early intervention, treatment, and recovery. Policy examples include preventing underage substance use and sales to minors, improving school climate and academic achievement, enacting sentencing reform, and sustaining adequate funding for multi-sector youth development, treatment, and recovery services.<sup>10</sup>

In Rhode Island in 2013-2014, 3% of youth ages 12-17 needed but did not receive specialty treatment for their alcohol use problem, which is the 15th highest rate among all states. Four percent of Rhode Island youth ages 12-17 needed but did not receive any specialty treatment for their illicit drug use. Rhode Island has the seventh highest percentage among all states on this measure.<sup>11</sup>

## Tobacco Use Among Rhode Island Youth

- ◆ **Cigarettes:** Cigarette use has reached record low levels among U.S. middle and high school students.<sup>12</sup> In 2015, 7% of Rhode Island middle school students reported ever trying cigarette smoking (down from 16% in 2007) and 1% reported smoking cigarettes in the past 30 days. Rhode Island has the lowest current cigarette use rate for both middle and high school students (5%) in the nation among ranked states in 2015.<sup>13,14</sup>
- ◆ **Electronic Vapor Products:** Among U.S. adolescents in 2016, e-cigarettes use was higher than use of traditional tobacco cigarettes or any other tobacco product.<sup>15</sup> In Rhode Island in 2015, 16% of middle school students reported ever using an electronic vapor product and 8% reported current use in the past 30 days. Hispanic students (12%), eighth graders (10%), and males (8%) reported the highest use. In 2015, 41% of Rhode Island high school students reported ever using an electronic vapor product and 19% reported use in the past 30 days. Rhode Island had the third lowest middle school rate and sixth lowest high school rate for current vapor use among ranked states in 2015.<sup>16,17</sup>
- ◆ **Hookah:** The prevalence of smoking tobacco using a hookah has declined nationally for the past two years and most use is occasional.<sup>18</sup> In 2015, 12% of Rhode Island high school students reported using a hookah in the past 30 days. Rates of current use were highest among Hispanic students (16%), seniors (15%), and females (13%).<sup>19</sup>
- ◆ **Cigars:** Use of small cigars (cigarillos) among U.S. adolescents has declined significantly since 2010.<sup>20</sup> In Rhode Island in 2015, 1% of middle school students and 8% of high school students reported smoking cigars in the past 30 days. Current cigar use was highest among high school seniors (13%) and males (12%), and Hispanic (9%), Black non-Hispanic (8%), and White non-Hispanic (8%) students. Rhode Island had the lowest middle school rate and seventh lowest high school rate for current cigar use among ranked states in 2015.<sup>21,22</sup>
- ◆ **Smokeless Tobacco:** After rising in the mid-2000s, use of smokeless tobacco by U.S. adolescents has been in decline since 2010.<sup>23</sup> In 2015, 1% of Rhode Island middle school and 5% of Rhode Island high school students reported current use of smokeless tobacco, with high school males (8%), seniors (8%), and Black, Non-Hispanic (7%) youth reporting the highest levels of use. In 2015, Rhode Island had the lowest middle school rate and fifth lowest high school rate for use of smokeless tobacco among ranked states.<sup>24,25</sup>

## Ever Tried Substance, Rhode Island Middle School Students by Select Subgroups, 2015

|                     | ALCOHOL USE* | ELECTRONIC VAPOR PRODUCT USE* | CIGARETTE USE* | MARIJUANA USE* | PRESCRIPTION DRUG MISUSE*** |
|---------------------|--------------|-------------------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Female              | 19%          | 14%                           | 8%             | 7%             | 4%                          |
| Male                | 14%          | 17%                           | 7%             | 7%             | 4%                          |
| Black               | 20%          | 21%                           | 9%             | 9%             | 6%                          |
| White               | 14%          | 11%                           | 7%             | 5%             | 3%                          |
| All other races     | 15%          | 15%                           | 8%             | 7%             | 4%                          |
| Multiple races      | NA           | 21%                           | 6%             | 17%            | 8%                          |
| Hispanic            | 21%          | 24%                           | 7%             | 8%             | 3%                          |
| 6th Grade           | 9%           | 9%                            | 5%             | 2%             | 2%                          |
| 7th Grade           | 18%          | 17%                           | 8%             | 7%             | 5%                          |
| 8th Grade           | 22%          | 20%                           | 9%             | 11%            | 4%                          |
| <i>ALL STUDENTS</i> | <i>16%</i>   | <i>16%</i>                    | <i>7%</i>      | <i>7%</i>      | <i>4%</i>                   |

Source: 2015 Rhode Island Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis. \*Use is defined as students who answered yes to 'ever using' each substance. \*\*Prescription drug misuse is defined as those without a doctor's prescription. NA is not available due to small sample size.

- ◆ Among Rhode Island middle school students in 2015, 16% reported ever drinking alcohol, 16% reported ever trying electronic vapor products, 7% reported ever smoking a cigarette, 7% reported ever trying marijuana, and 4% reported ever misusing prescription drugs.<sup>26</sup>
- ◆ In Rhode Island in 2015, 26% of high school students reported current (i.e., in the past 30 days) alcohol consumption, 24% reported current marijuana use, 19% reported current electronic vapor product use, 13% reported current binge drinking, 6% reported current prescription drug misuse, and 5% reported current cigarette use.<sup>27</sup>
- ◆ In 2015, a majority of Rhode Island middle school students reported that they have never taken a prescription drug without a doctor's prescription (96%), smoked a cigarette (93%), used marijuana (93%), used an electronic vapor product (84%), nor consumed alcohol (84%).<sup>28</sup>

## Family and Community Risk Factors

- ◆ Having parents or friends who use tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs, as well as living in communities in which there is drug dealing and use are risk factors for teen substance use.<sup>29</sup> In Rhode Island in 2015, 34% of middle school students and 32% of high school students reported living with someone who smokes cigarettes. One in five (22%) Rhode Island high school students under age 18 who used an electronic vapor product during the past 30 days reported buying it in a store, despite laws prohibiting such purchases. One in ten (10%) high school students who had ever taken a prescription drug without a doctor's prescription reported buying it at school.<sup>30</sup>

## Babies Born with Exposure to Substances

- ◆ Babies born with exposure to opioids (pain medication) face immediate and long-term negative outcomes. Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) refers to the withdrawal and negative effects experienced by newborns born to mothers who use opioids and other drugs during pregnancy.<sup>31</sup>
- ◆ In Rhode Island in 2015, 114 babies were diagnosed with NAS, a rate of 103.8 per 10,000 births; up from 97 babies (92.0 per 10,000 births) in 2014 and nearly triple the rate of 37.2 in 2006. Eighty-seven percent of babies born with NAS between 2011 and 2015 in Rhode Island were born to White mothers, 84% had Medicaid coverage, and 36% lived in the four core cities.<sup>32</sup>
- ◆ Mothers' smoking during pregnancy is associated with adverse outcomes for children, including preterm births, low birthweight, and infant mortality.<sup>33</sup> Nationally, one in ten women who gave birth in 2014 smoked during the three months before they became pregnant and nearly one-quarter of those women quit smoking before pregnancy.<sup>34</sup>
- ◆ In Rhode Island between 2011 and 2015, 7% (4,007) of all births were to women who smoked during their pregnancy. During that time, Rhode Island mothers who smoked had higher percentages of low birthweight (12.9%) and preterm births (12.1%) compared to mothers who did not smoke (6.8% and 8.5% respectively).<sup>35</sup>

### References

References are on page 182.

# Safety

# Child Deaths

## DEFINITION

*Child deaths* is the number of deaths from all causes among children ages one to 14, per 100,000 children. The data are reported by place of residence, not place of death.

## SIGNIFICANCE

The child death rate is a reflection of the physical health of children, maternal health, access to health care, the dangers to which children are exposed in the community, access to and use of safety devices and practices (such as bicycle helmets and smoke alarms) and the level of adult supervision children receive.<sup>1,2</sup>

The U.S. child death rate has declined over the past three decades but disparities still exist by age group, gender, as well as race and ethnicity. Children ages one to four are more likely to die than children ages five to 14 and the child death rate is higher for male children than female children. The child death rate is also higher for Black children than for children of other racial and ethnic groups.<sup>3,4</sup>

In Rhode Island between 2011 and 2015, there were 91 deaths of children ages one to 14 (a rate of 11.05 per 100,000 children). Thirty-five (38%) of these children lived in the four core cities and 56 (62%) lived in the remainder of the state. Of the 91 deaths, 62 (68%) were due to disease, 17 (19%) were due to unintentional injuries, 10 (11%) were due to

intentional injuries (seven suicides and three homicides), and 2 (2%) were due to unknown causes.<sup>5,6</sup>

Children are particularly vulnerable to injury deaths due to their size, development, inexperience, and natural curiosity.<sup>7</sup> Unintentional injuries are the leading cause of death for children ages one to 14 in Rhode Island and in the U.S. and account for more than a quarter of all deaths among children ages one to 14 nationally.<sup>8,9,10</sup>

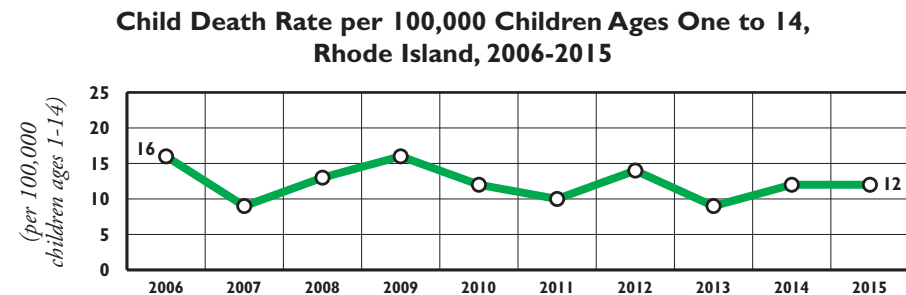
Nationally, the leading causes of child injury deaths are motor vehicle crashes and drowning.<sup>11</sup> Child injury deaths can be reduced by raising awareness about injury prevention strategies and the importance of using safety products (such as seat belts), enforcing laws that promote safety (such as speed limits and the mandatory use of child passenger restraints), and through continued environmental and product design improvements (such as flame-resistant sleepwear and safety surfacing on playgrounds).<sup>12</sup>

| Child Death Rate<br>(per 100,000 Children Ages 1-14) |      |      |
|------------------------------------------------------|------|------|
|                                                      | 2005 | 2015 |
| RI                                                   | 20   | 12   |
| US                                                   | 20   | 16   |
| National Rank*                                       |      | 4th  |
| New England Rank**                                   |      | 4th  |

\*1st is best; 50th is worst

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

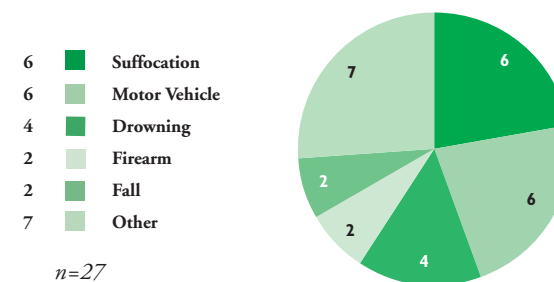
Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC WONDER, wonder.cdc.gov



Source: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC WONDER, wonder.cdc.gov. \*Caution should be used with small numbers in numerators and denominators.

◆ In 2015, Rhode Island's child death rate for children ages one to 14 was 12 per 100,000 children, the same as in 2014. Rhode Island's New England rank fell from third in 2014 to fourth in 2015 and its U.S. rank remained the same at fourth lowest.<sup>13</sup>

## Child Deaths Due to Injury, by Cause, Rhode Island, 2011-2015



Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, 2011-2015.

◆ Between 2011 and 2015, 27 Rhode Island children ages one to 14 died as a result of injury. Suffocation, motor vehicle crashes, and drowning were the leading causes of child deaths due to injury in Rhode Island during this time period.<sup>14</sup>

## References

<sup>1</sup> 2016 KIDS COUNT data book. (2016). Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation.

<sup>4</sup> The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, datacenter.kidscount.org.

<sup>2,3,10</sup> Infant, child, and teen mortality. (2016). Washington, DC: Child Trends.

(continued on page 182)

## DEFINITION

*Teen deaths* is the number of deaths from all causes among teens ages 15 to 19, per 100,000 teens. The data are reported by place of residence, not place of death.

## SIGNIFICANCE

Adolescents' health and safety can be threatened by a variety of risk behaviors, including alcohol, drug abuse, and violence.<sup>1</sup> Teens' emotional health, including mood disorders and depression, further impacts their safety.<sup>2</sup> Nationally, the most prevalent causes of teen deaths are motor vehicle collisions, homicides, and suicides, all of which are preventable.<sup>3,4</sup>

Factors that protect against teen deaths include parent involvement, access to mental health services, state regulated teen driving programs, as well as violence and substance abuse prevention programs. School, community, and therapeutic programs such as support groups, parent education interventions, and community improvement initiatives can reduce risk behaviors and support positive youth development.<sup>5,6,7</sup>

Between 2011 and 2015, there were 97 deaths of teens ages 15 to 19 in Rhode Island, a rate of 26.0 per 100,000 teens. Thirty-five (36%) of these teens lived in the four core cities and 62 (64%) lived in the remainder of the state.<sup>8,9</sup> Of these 97 teen deaths, 35 (36%) were due to unintentional injuries, 27 (28%) were due to

intentional injuries (18 suicides and nine homicides), 26 (27%) were due to disease, seven (7%) were due to overdose, and two (2%) were of other or unknown causes.<sup>10</sup>

According to the *2015 Rhode Island Youth Risk Behavior Survey*, 11% of Rhode Island high school students reported attempting suicide one or more times in the 12 months before the survey was administered, with females (13%) reporting more attempts than males (8%).<sup>11</sup> Rhode Island has the eighth highest self-reported suicide attempt rate among ranked states in 2015.<sup>12</sup> Of the 18 youth ages 15 to 19 who died from suicide during that time, 14 were male and four were female.<sup>13</sup> Nationally, depression and suicide among adolescents have increased in recent years, with more females reporting symptoms of depression and attempting suicide nationally than males.<sup>14</sup> Mental health problems, such as depression and substance abuse, are associated with an increased risk of suicide among youth.<sup>15</sup>

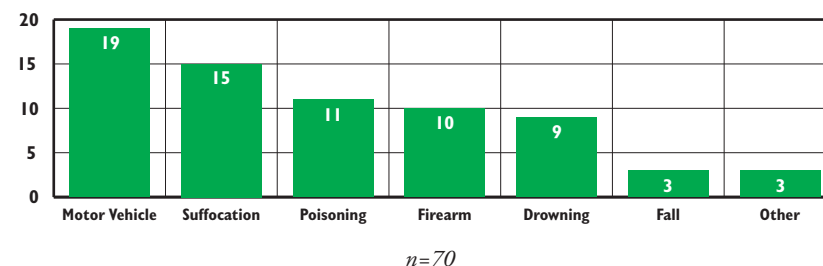
| Teen Death Rate<br>(per 100,000 Youth Ages 15-19) |      |      |
|---------------------------------------------------|------|------|
|                                                   | 2005 | 2015 |
| RI                                                | 36   | 31   |
| US                                                | 64   | 48   |
| National Rank*                                    |      | 4th  |
| New England Rank**                                |      | 3rd  |

\*1st is best; 50th is worst

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

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC WONDER, wonder.cdc.gov

**Injury Deaths by Cause, Teens Ages 15 to 19, Rhode Island, 2011-2015**



Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, Maternal and Child Health Database, 2011-2015. This chart and the first bullet below report deaths of teens residing in Rhode Island. Data reported in the second, third, and fourth bullets below reflect teen motor vehicle deaths that occurred in Rhode Island, regardless of residence. Data for 2015 are provisional.

- ◆ Between 2011 and 2015 in Rhode Island, 60% of the 70 teen deaths caused by injury were unintentional. Twenty-seven percent of all injury deaths involved motor vehicles.<sup>16</sup>
- ◆ Among the 20 teens ages 15 to 19 killed in Rhode Island motor vehicle crashes between 2011 and 2015, 12 were driving, seven were passengers in vehicles driven by others, and one was a bicyclist.<sup>17</sup>
- ◆ Five (25%) of the teen drivers who died in motor vehicle crashes in Rhode Island between 2011 and 2015 had been drinking and two teen fatalities occurred with adult drivers who had been drinking.<sup>18</sup>
- ◆ Seven (44%) of teen drivers and passengers killed in automobile accidents in Rhode Island between 2011 and 2015 were not wearing a seatbelt.<sup>19</sup>
- ◆ In 2015, 46% of Rhode Island high school students reported texting or e-mailing while driving on at least one day in the month prior to taking the *Rhode Island Youth Risk Behavior Survey*. Eighteen percent reported riding in a vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking in the prior month, and 6% reported that they never or rarely wear a seatbelt while riding in a car driven by someone else.<sup>20</sup> In 2015, Rhode Island ranked 28th, 11th, and fifth best among ranked states on these respective measures.<sup>21</sup>

## References

<sup>15</sup> Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. (2014). *Healthy People 2020: Adolescent health*. Retrieved February 23, 2017, from www.healthypeople.gov

(continued on page 182)

# Youth Violence

## DEFINITION

*Youth violence* is the number of arrests of youths under age 18 in Rhode Island for assault and weapons offenses and the percentage of high school students who report experiencing violence at school. These two measures of youth violence are used to account for violence that leads to arrest as well as some of the violence experienced by youth that may not come to the attention of the police.

## SIGNIFICANCE

Youth violence refers to a variety of harmful behaviors that youth can experience as victims, witnesses, or offenders and that can cause emotional harm, injury, or death. Violence can impact the well-being of individuals, families, schools, and communities and can generate high social and economic costs.<sup>1,2</sup>

Effective youth violence prevention aims to reduce factors that place youth at risk for violent behavior and promote factors that protect youth at risk for perpetrating violence.<sup>3</sup> Efforts to prevent youth violence should begin in early childhood and continue through adolescence and address a wide range of individual, family, and community factors. Effective violence prevention strategies include strengthening youth's capacity to choose nonviolence, promoting supportive relationships between youth and adults, and

improving economic conditions and safety in communities.<sup>4</sup>

Youth at risk for committing violent acts often live in high-poverty neighborhoods with limited economic opportunities. They are more likely to have histories of substance use, association with delinquent peers, academic failure, poor family functioning, and be victims of child maltreatment.<sup>5,6,7</sup> Youths who are victims of violence are at increased risk for developing physical and mental health problems, having academic difficulties, smoking, engaging in high-risk sexual behavior, and suicide.<sup>8</sup>

Nationally in 2015, 23% of students in grades nine through 12 reported being in a physical fight during the previous year, 20% reported being bullied on school property during the previous year, and 18% reported carrying a weapon during the previous month.<sup>9</sup>

The number of juveniles arrested for violent crimes in the U.S. reached a 33-year low in 2012, with juveniles making up 12% of all serious violent crime arrests. The Rhode Island juvenile arrest rate for serious violent crimes was 128 per 100,000 youth ages 10 to 17, compared to the U.S. rate of 187 per 100,000 youth ages 10 to 17.<sup>10</sup> In 2015 in Rhode Island, there were 469 juvenile arrests for assault offenses and 79 juvenile arrests for weapons offenses.<sup>11</sup> In 2016, violent crimes made up 5% (243) of the 4,964 juvenile offenses referred to Rhode Island Family Court.<sup>12</sup>

## Bully Status by Gender and Grade Level, Rhode Island, 2015

|                            | MIDDLE SCHOOL<br>(EVER) |         | HIGH SCHOOL<br>(CURRENT-PAST MONTH) |        |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------|-------------------------------------|--------|
|                            | MALE                    | FEMALES | MALES                               | FEMALE |
| Bullied on School Property | 32%                     | 45%     | 15%                                 | 16%    |
| Bullied Electronically     | 12%                     | 30%     | 10%                                 | 15%    |
| Been in a Physical Fight*  | 45%                     | 25%     | 11%                                 | 7%     |

Source: *Youth Risk Behavior Survey*, 2015, Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Data Analysis. \*Physical fight is defined as occurring anywhere for middle school, but only on school property for high school respondents.

- ◆ **Violence in schools affects individual victims and disrupts the functioning of entire schools and communities.**<sup>13</sup> In Rhode Island in 2015, 6% of high school students (7% of males and 5% of females) reported not going to school due to safety concerns.<sup>14</sup>
- ◆ **Victims of bullying are at risk of poor academic achievement, absenteeism, and forms of aggression. Both victims and perpetrators of bullying are more likely to contemplate or attempt suicide.**<sup>15</sup>
- ◆ **Witnessing violence can cause emotional, physical, and mental harm, even for children who are not the direct victims of violence. Early, chronic exposure to violence can damage a child's brain development and condition them to react with fear and anxiety to a range of circumstances.**<sup>16</sup>
- ◆ **Cyberbullying is bullying that takes place online or by digital communication through text messages, instant messengers, social media, and/or other digital applications.**<sup>17</sup> In 2015 in Rhode Island, 21% of middle school students (30% of females and 12% of males) and 12% of high school students (15% of females and 10% of males) reported being electronically bullied.<sup>18</sup>

## Gun Violence Among Youth

- ◆ **Guns are the leading instrument of fatal violence to teens and are used in 88% of teen homicides and 41% of teen suicides in the U.S.**<sup>19</sup> In Rhode Island between 2011 and 2015, there were 117 emergency department visits, 56 hospitalizations, and ten deaths of youth ages 15 to 19 attributed to firearms.<sup>20</sup>

Table 27.

## Youth Violence, Rhode Island

## Youth Violence

| CITY/TOWN          | COMMUNITY CONTEXT                      |                                  | VIOLENCE IN HIGH SCHOOLS, 2014                                          |                                                          | JUVENILE ARRESTS FOR VIOLENCE, 2015 |                        |                                          |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------------|
|                    | VIOLENT CRIME OFFENSES (ALL AGES) 2015 | TOTAL POPULATION AGES 11-17 2010 | % OF STUDENTS SAW ANOTHER STUDENT BRING A WEAPON TO SCHOOL IN PAST YEAR | % OF STUDENTS IN A PHYSICAL FIGHT AT SCHOOL IN PAST YEAR | # FOR ASSAULT OFFENSES              | # FOR WEAPONS OFFENSES | TOTAL # FOR ASSAULT AND WEAPONS OFFENSES |
| Barrington         | 9                                      | 2,186                            | 14%                                                                     | 6%                                                       | 4                                   | 1                      | 5                                        |
| Bristol            | 13                                     | 1,545                            | 12%                                                                     | 11%                                                      | 4                                   | 0                      | 4                                        |
| Burrillville       | 16                                     | 1,526                            | 10%                                                                     | 8%                                                       | 2                                   | 0                      | 2                                        |
| Central Falls      | 150                                    | 2,089                            | 12%                                                                     | 11%                                                      | 18                                  | 5                      | 23                                       |
| Charlestown        | 12                                     | 659                              | 23%                                                                     | 9%                                                       | 0                                   | 0                      | 0                                        |
| Coventry           | 33                                     | 3,509                            | 23%                                                                     | 8%                                                       | 13                                  | 2                      | 15                                       |
| Cranston           | 114                                    | 6,984                            | 16%                                                                     | 10%                                                      | 11                                  | 1                      | 12                                       |
| Cumberland         | 22                                     | 3,271                            | 21%                                                                     | 8%                                                       | 5                                   | 0                      | 5                                        |
| East Greenwich     | 9                                      | 1,671                            | 13%                                                                     | 5%                                                       | 1                                   | 0                      | 1                                        |
| East Providence    | 57                                     | 3,730                            | 18%                                                                     | 8%                                                       | 10                                  | 0                      | 10                                       |
| Exeter             | NA                                     | 673                              | 11%                                                                     | 7%                                                       | NA                                  | NA                     | NA                                       |
| Foster             | 2                                      | 467                              | 20%                                                                     | 10%                                                      | 0                                   | 0                      | 0                                        |
| Glocester          | 4                                      | 1,000                            | 20%                                                                     | 10%                                                      | 1                                   | 1                      | 2                                        |
| Hopkinton          | 5                                      | 826                              | 23%                                                                     | 9%                                                       | 1                                   | 0                      | 1                                        |
| Jamestown          | 0                                      | 528                              | 14%                                                                     | 8%                                                       | 1                                   | 0                      | 1                                        |
| Johnston           | 41                                     | 2,376                            | 24%                                                                     | 11%                                                      | 12                                  | 2                      | 14                                       |
| Lincoln            | 15                                     | 2,189                            | 12%                                                                     | 7%                                                       | 6                                   | 1                      | 7                                        |
| Little Compton     | 2                                      | 284                              | 11%                                                                     | 7%                                                       | 0                                   | 0                      | 0                                        |
| Middletown         | 19                                     | 1,504                            | 12%                                                                     | 9%                                                       | 12                                  | 0                      | 12                                       |
| Narragansett       | 2                                      | 1,052                            | 21%                                                                     | 6%                                                       | 2                                   | 0                      | 2                                        |
| New Shoreham       | 2                                      | 64                               | NA                                                                      | NA                                                       | 0                                   | 0                      | 0                                        |
| Newport            | 94                                     | 1,484                            | 24%                                                                     | 10%                                                      | 30                                  | 1                      | 31                                       |
| North Kingstown    | 20                                     | 2,917                            | 14%                                                                     | 8%                                                       | 8                                   | 2                      | 10                                       |
| North Providence   | 50                                     | 2,303                            | 17%                                                                     | 7%                                                       | 24                                  | 3                      | 27                                       |
| North Smithfield   | 7                                      | 1,132                            | 10%                                                                     | 6%                                                       | 2                                   | 0                      | 2                                        |
| Pawtucket          | 293                                    | 6,268                            | 15%                                                                     | 10%                                                      | 55                                  | 5                      | 60                                       |
| Portsmouth         | 8                                      | 1,881                            | 11%                                                                     | 7%                                                       | 4                                   | 0                      | 4                                        |
| Providence         | 1,018                                  | 16,024                           | 18%                                                                     | 10%                                                      | 166                                 | 42                     | 208                                      |
| Richmond           | 4                                      | 759                              | 23%                                                                     | 9%                                                       | 3                                   | 0                      | 3                                        |
| Scituate           | 3                                      | 1,143                            | 13%                                                                     | 8%                                                       | 0                                   | 0                      | 0                                        |
| Smithfield         | 12                                     | 1,729                            | 10%                                                                     | 8%                                                       | 8                                   | 1                      | 9                                        |
| South Kingstown    | 21                                     | 2,498                            | 16%                                                                     | 9%                                                       | 7                                   | 0                      | 7                                        |
| Tiverton           | 20                                     | 1,318                            | 13%                                                                     | 12%                                                      | 4                                   | 1                      | 5                                        |
| Warren             | 22                                     | 777                              | 12%                                                                     | 11%                                                      | 1                                   | 0                      | 1                                        |
| Warwick            | 66                                     | 6,781                            | 14%                                                                     | 10%                                                      | 18                                  | 3                      | 21                                       |
| West Greenwich     | 3                                      | 678                              | 11%                                                                     | 7%                                                       | 0                                   | 1                      | 1                                        |
| West Warwick       | 67                                     | 2,139                            | 13%                                                                     | 9%                                                       | 7                                   | 2                      | 9                                        |
| Westerly           | 18                                     | 2,003                            | 13%                                                                     | 7%                                                       | 5                                   | 0                      | 5                                        |
| Woonsocket         | 235                                    | 3,649                            | 22%                                                                     | 12%                                                      | 21                                  | 4                      | 25                                       |
| State Police/Other | NA                                     | NA                               | NA                                                                      | NA                                                       | 3                                   | 1                      | 4                                        |
| Four Core Cities   | 1,696                                  | 28,030                           | NA                                                                      | NA                                                       | 260                                 | 56                     | 316                                      |
| Remainder of State | 792                                    | 65,586                           | NA                                                                      | NA                                                       | 209                                 | 23                     | 232                                      |
| Rhode Island       | 2,488                                  | 93,616                           | 16%                                                                     | 9%                                                       | 469                                 | 79                     | 548                                      |

**Sources of Data for Table/Methodology**

Total violent crime offense data are from U.S. Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation. (2015). *Crime in the United States 2015: Rhode Island offenses known to law enforcement*. Retrieved February 28, 2017, from www.fbi.gov

Total population ages 11–17 data are from U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010.

Data on high school students experiencing violence at school are from *SurveyWorks!* student survey, Rhode Island Department of Education, 2014 (the most recent year the survey was administered). Percentages reflect students answering yes to the question of whether “they saw a student with a weapon like a gun, knife, or club at this school” and “they were in a physical fight at school” in the 12 months prior to the survey. *SurveyWorks!* data for communities that belong to regional districts reflect the district’s overall survey results. Students from Little Compton attend high school in Portsmouth and students from Jamestown attend high school in North Kingstown. Due to a change in the *SurveyWorks!* question format, the weapons data in *Violence in High Schools* cannot be compared to previous Factbooks. In earlier years, the *SurveyWorks!* survey asked students if they had brought a weapon to school in the past year; since then, students are asked if they had seen another student with a weapon at school in the past year.

Juvenile arrests for assault and weapons offenses data are from Mongeau, T. & Tocco, G. (2016). *2015 juvenile detention data*. Providence, RI: Rhode Island Department of Public Safety, Grant Administration Office. A complete list of assault and weapons offenses can be found in the Methodology Section of this Factbook.

NA indicates that the data are not available. Exeter arrest numbers are included in the State Police totals.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

**References for Youth Violence**

<sup>1,6</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2015). *Understanding youth violence: Fact sheet*. Retrieved March 3, 2017, from www.cdc.gov

<sup>2,4,5</sup> David-Ferdon, C. & Simon, T. R. (2014). *Preventing youth violence: Opportunities for action*. Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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# Gun Violence

## DEFINITION

*Gun violence* is the number of firearm-related deaths and hospitalizations to Rhode Island children and youth under age 20. The data are reported by place of residence, not place of death, injury, or hospitalization.

## SIGNIFICANCE

Children and youth can experience gun violence as victims of firearm assaults, self-inflicted firearm injuries, or accidental shootings.<sup>1</sup> Gun violence also can impact children and youth when someone they know is the victim or perpetrator of a shooting. Exposure to violence at home, in schools, and in the community can lead to lasting psychological and emotional damage (such as increased fear, anxiety, and depression, attachment problems, and conduct disorders), as well as cognitive and attention difficulties, and involvement in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.<sup>2,3</sup>

In the U.S. during 2015, 58% of the 2,824 firearm deaths of children and youth under age 20 in the United States were the result of homicide, 36% were the result of suicide, 4% were the result of unintentional injuries, 1% was the result of shootings with an undetermined intent, and 1% was the result of a legal intervention (e.g., law enforcement shooting).<sup>4</sup>

While the number of children and youth killed by guns has decreased since peaking in the early 1990s, firearms remain one of the leading causes of deaths for youth ages 15 to 19 in the United States.<sup>5,6</sup> Of the 2,824 U.S. children and youth under age 20 killed by firearms during 2015, 84% (2,381) were ages 15 to 19. Children under age 15 have the lowest rates of firearm-related deaths of any age group.<sup>7</sup>

Nationally, males ages 15 to 19 are eight times more likely to die from a firearm-related incident than females of the same age. Among teens in the U.S., the rate of firearm deaths for Black males (47 per 100,000) was more than three times the rate of Hispanic males (13 per 100,000) and more than four times the rate of White males (11 per 100,000) in 2014.<sup>8</sup>

Preventing access to guns is the most reliable measure to prevent firearm-related injuries and death in children and youth. The presence and availability of a gun is strongly associated with adolescent suicide risk. Possessing a gun also increases a person's risk for being shot in an assault. Keeping guns unloaded and locked, as well as storing and locking ammunition separately, reduces the risk of gun-related injury and death by suicide or homicide.<sup>9,10,11</sup>

## Gun-Related Deaths, Emergency Department (ED) Visits, Hospitalizations, and Deaths Among Children and Youth, Rhode Island, 2011-2015

| AGE          | # OF ED VISITS | # OF HOSPITALIZATIONS | # OF DEATHS |
|--------------|----------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| 1 to 14      | 51             | 5                     | 2           |
| 15 to 17     | 53             | 21                    | 3           |
| 18 to 19     | 64             | 35                    | 7           |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>168</b>     | <b>61</b>             | <b>12</b>   |

Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, 2011-2015. Data for 2015 are provisional.

◆ Between 2011 and 2015 in Rhode Island, 12 (12%) of the 97 injury deaths of children and youth under age 20 were the result of firearms, down from 14 deaths between 2010 and 2014. Of these, 58% (7) were among youth ages 18 to 19, 25% (3) were among youth ages 15 to 17, and 17% (2) were among children ages 14 or younger. Between 2011 and 2015 in Rhode Island, there were two youth under age 20 who committed suicide using a firearm.<sup>12</sup>

◆ In Rhode Island between 2011 and 2015, there were 168 emergency department visits and 61 hospitalizations of children and youth for gun-related injuries, down from 189 and up from 59 respectively, in 2010-2014.<sup>13</sup>

## Weapon Carrying Among Rhode Island Public Middle and High School Students, 2015

|                                                                                                  | FEMALES | MALES | TOTAL |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-------|-------|
| High School students who carried a weapon on school property at least once in the past 30 days   | 2%      | 7%    | 5%    |
| Middle School students who carried a weapon on school property at least once in the past 30 days | 2%      | 2%    | 2%    |

Source: 2015 Rhode Island Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis.

◆ Nationally and in Rhode Island, male students self-report higher rates of weapon carrying on school property and gun carrying than females. In 2015, Rhode Island high school students ranked 15th lowest among 32 states for self-reported weapon carrying on school property.<sup>14,15,16</sup>

## References

<sup>1</sup> Kochanek, K. D., Murphy, S. L., Xu, J., & Tejada-Vera, B. (2016). Deaths: Final data for 2014. *NVSR*, 65(4).

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## DEFINITION

*Homeless and runaway youth* is the number of youth in Rhode Island who accessed emergency shelter services without their families or who were absent without leave (AWOL) from state care placements (including youth in child welfare and juvenile justice community placements).

## SIGNIFICANCE

There are three primary causes of homelessness among youth – family conflict, residential instability resulting from foster care and institutional placements, and economic problems. Many youth run away due to physical and sexual abuse, strained family relationships, substance abuse by a family member, and/or parental neglect. While there are estimated to be more than 1 million homeless youth in the U.S., there is no standardized definition and standard methodology for measuring homeless youth.<sup>1,2</sup>

Youth may become homeless when they run away from or are discharged from the foster care system. Homeless youth with foster care histories often become homeless at an earlier age and remain homeless longer than their peers. Youth who “age out” of foster care without permanent families are more likely to experience homelessness.<sup>3,4</sup>

Youth who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer

(LGBTQ) are overrepresented in the homeless youth population, some of whom report being forced out of their homes by parents who disapprove of their sexual orientation or gender identity. LGBTQ homeless youth experience greater levels of violence and physical and sexual exploitation while on the streets and in shelters than their heterosexual peers.<sup>5,6</sup>

It can be difficult for homeless youth to obtain needed food, clothing, and shelter, so many turn to prostitution, theft, and/or selling drugs to provide for their basic needs, which risk arrest, assault, and/or contracting sexually transmitted infections.<sup>7,8,9</sup>

Homelessness often has a negative impact on education, employment, and health outcomes for youth. Homeless youth are more likely to be chronically absent, face disciplinary actions, be held back, and drop out.<sup>10</sup> They experience higher rates of physical and mental health problems, substance abuse, chronic physical conditions, and mortality than youth with stable housing.<sup>11,12</sup> Homeless youth often have trouble accessing health services because they may lack health insurance (or information about their coverage) and/or parental consent for treatment.<sup>13</sup> They may also face difficulties attending school due to a lack of required enrollment records, as well as lack of transportation to school.<sup>14</sup>

## Homeless Youth in Rhode Island

- ◆ **Blackstone Valley Community Action Program runs a Basic Center Program and two drop-in centers for unaccompanied and runaway homeless youth in Rhode Island. The drop-in centers are located at the Blackstone Valley Community Action Program’s main site in Pawtucket and at the Institute for the Study and Practice of Nonviolence in Providence. They offer food, clothing, hygiene products, and preventive services and connect youth to host home opportunities.<sup>15</sup>**
- ◆ **During the 2015-2016 school year, Rhode Island public school personnel identified 36 unaccompanied homeless youth.<sup>16</sup>**
- ◆ **In 2016, 44 single youth ages 18 to 20 and 144 young adults ages 21 to 24 received emergency shelter services through the adult emergency shelter system in Rhode Island, compared to 47 18 to 20 year-olds and 125 21 to 24 year-olds in 2015.<sup>17,18</sup>**
- ◆ **In 2015, the National Runaway Safeline handled 93 crisis phone calls and online crisis chats regarding youth ages 21 and under who were homeless, runaways, or at risk of homelessness in Rhode Island, down from 148 in 2014. Nationally, 72% of contacts to the Safeline were youth and the remainder were friends, family, and other adults.<sup>19</sup>**
- ◆ **On December 31, 2016, there were 36 youth in the care of the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families between the ages of 13 and 19 who were classified as unauthorized absences/runaways (AWOL), 17 females and 19 males, the same total number as last year. These youth were AWOL from either foster care or juvenile justice placements.<sup>20</sup>**
- ◆ **There were an additional 119 youth ages 13 to 17 who received emergency shelter services with their families in Rhode Island in 2016.<sup>21</sup> These youth are vulnerable to being separated from their families due to child welfare policies that result in child removal due to homelessness or shelter policies that do not allow males and females to stay together or otherwise do not accommodate families.<sup>22</sup>**

## References

<sup>1,8,10</sup> Ingram, E. S., Bridgeland, J. M., Reed, B., & Atwell, M. (2016). *Hidden in plain sight: Homeless students in America’s public schools*. Washington, DC: Civic Enterprises & Hart Research Associates.

<sup>2,4,7</sup> Fernandes-Alcantara, A. L. (2013). *Runaway and homeless youth: Demographics and programs*. Washington, DC: Congressional Research Service.

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# Youth Referred to Family Court

## DEFINITION

*Youth referred to Family Court* is the percentage of youth ages 10 to 17 referred to Rhode Island Family Court for wayward or delinquent offenses.

## SIGNIFICANCE

Risk factors for juvenile delinquency and involvement in the juvenile justice system include association with other delinquent youth, cognitive impairments, academic and learning difficulties, poor parental supervision and attachment, child maltreatment, and community disorganization, poverty, and crime.<sup>1</sup>

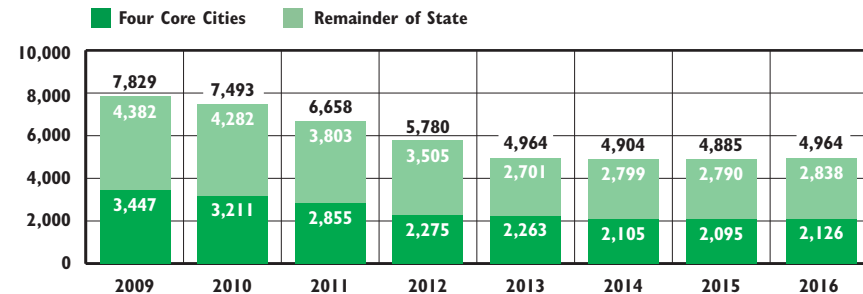
The Rhode Island Family Court has jurisdiction over children and youth under age 18 referred for wayward and delinquent offenses. When a police or school department refers a youth to Family Court, a petition is submitted, accompanied by an incident report, detailing the alleged violation of law.<sup>2</sup> During 2016 in Rhode Island, 2,634 youth (3% of Rhode Island youth between the ages of 10 and 17) were referred to Family Court, down from 2,770 youth during 2015. The number of offenses referred during 2016 (4,964) increased slightly over 2015, when 4,885 offenses were referred. Of the juvenile offenses in 2016, 243 (5%) involved violent offenses (54% of which occurred in the four core cities). In addition, 566 probation violations also came before the Family Court in 2016.<sup>3,4,5</sup>

In 2016 in Rhode Island, 24% of juvenile offenses referred to Family Court were committed by youth from Providence, 19% were committed by youth from the other three core cities, and 57% were committed by youth living in the remainder of the state.<sup>6</sup>

Using validated assessment tools to determine the risk of re-arrest, prioritizing and addressing the behavior and learning needs of each individual youth, and focusing efforts on youth most likely to reoffend can help prevent recidivism.<sup>7,8</sup> Sixty-two percent of youth referred to the Rhode Island Family Court in 2016 were referred for the first time, 17% had been referred once before, and 21% had been referred at least twice before.<sup>9</sup>

Research shows that incarceration of youth is not cost-effective and leads to worse public safety outcomes and higher recidivism rates than the use of community-based alternatives to incarceration.<sup>10</sup> Community-based programs that improve a youth's skills, relationships, and insight are more effective at preventing recidivism than those that emphasize discipline and threat of consequences. Effective interventions include individual, group, and family counseling, mentoring programs, academic and vocational training, case management services, and restorative justice practices.<sup>11</sup>

**Juvenile Wayward/Delinquent Offenses Referred to Rhode Island Family Court, 2009-2016**



◆ The number of juvenile offenses fell by 38% since 2009, from 7,829 to a low of 4,885 in 2015, before increasing slightly to 4,964 in 2016. The number of children and youth referred to Family Court for wayward and delinquent offenses declined 45% between 2009 and 2016, from 4,825 to 2,634.

◆ In 2016, 71% of offenses referred to the Family Court involved males and 29% females. Forty-six percent of offenses involved White youth, 23% Black youth, 18% Hispanic youth, 1% Asian youth, and 13% of offenses involved youth of some other race or an unknown race.

◆ In 2016, 7% of offenses referred to Family Court involved youth ages 12 or younger, 43% youth ages 13 to 15, 49% youth ages 16 to 17, and 1% of unknown age.

## BY TYPE OF OFFENSE

|     |                    |    |                           |
|-----|--------------------|----|---------------------------|
| 24% | Status Offenses*   | 4% | Motor Vehicle Offenses    |
| 22% | Property Crimes    | 4% | Weapons Offenses          |
| 20% | Disorderly Conduct | 3% | Alcohol and Drug Offenses |
| 10% | Simple Assault     | 8% | Other**                   |
| 5%  | Violent Crimes     |    |                           |

*n*=4,964

\*Status offenses are age-related acts that would not be punishable if the offender were an adult, such as truancy and disobedient conduct.

\*\*Other includes offenses such as conspiracy, crank/obscene phone calls, computer crimes and possession of a manipulative device for automobiles, etc. Probation violations, contempt of court, and other violations of court orders are not included in the offenses above.

Source: Rhode Island Family Court, 2009-2016 *Juvenile Offense Reports*. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

# Youth Referred to Family Court

## Alternatives to Incarceration for Juvenile Offenders in Rhode Island

- ◆ Juvenile courts have a wide range of options for handling juvenile offenders, including restitution, community service, revocation of driving privileges, counseling, substance abuse treatment, and probation.<sup>12</sup> In 2016 in Rhode Island, 21% of all cases referred to Family Court were diverted instead of proceeding to a formal court hearing, up from 20% in 2015.<sup>13</sup>
- ◆ The Rhode Island Family Court administers several alternatives to traditional court hearings, including the Truancy Court and the Juvenile Drug Court. In 2016, 1,324 juveniles were referred to the Truancy Court by schools, down from 1,353 in 2015. In 2016, 88 juveniles who committed drug offenses or had highlighted drug issues were diverted to the Juvenile Drug Court pre-adjudication, up from 53 in 2015.<sup>14</sup> Juveniles referred to the Drug Court undergo a six- to twelve-month program that includes intensive court supervision, drug treatment, and educational and employment services.<sup>15</sup>
- ◆ In 2015, there were 33 Juvenile Hearing Boards in Rhode Island. Three communities did not have Juvenile Hearing Boards (Little Compton, Richmond, and South Kingstown), one had no activity (New Shoreham), one had been inactive for two years (North Kingstown), and one was in the process of reorganizing (Providence). Comprised of volunteer community members, these Boards permit the diversion of juveniles accused of status offenses or misdemeanors. Sanction options in this process include, but are not limited to, community service, restitution, and counseling. Rhode Island Juvenile Hearing Boards reported hearing 345 cases in 2015 (the most recent year for which data are available).<sup>16</sup>

## LGBT Youth in the Juvenile Justice System

- ◆ Many lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) youth experience family rejection, conflicts at home, and bullying and harassment in school due to their gender identity or sexual orientation. These factors increase LGBT youth's risk of family court involvement for status offenses (like running away), survival behavior (like engaging in commercial sexual activity), and safety-related truancy. LGBT youth are more likely to be subjected to profiling, detained for low-level offenses, and victims of assault while in custody. Instituting protective policies and training for adults working in the juvenile justice system about the social, familial, and developmental challenges faced by LGBT youth could help keep them safe and support positive outcomes while they are in the community, in detention, or in correctional settings.<sup>17,18</sup>

## Juveniles Tried as Adults in Rhode Island

- ◆ Youth tried and punished in the adult court system are more likely to re-offend and to commit future crimes than youth who commit similar crimes but who are in juvenile systems. Adolescents in the adult criminal justice system are at risk for sexual and physical victimization, and disruptions in their development, including identity formation, learning, and relationship skills.<sup>19</sup>
- ◆ Behavioral research shows that most youth offenders will stop breaking the law as part of normal development and that adolescents are less able than adults to weigh risks and consequences and to resist peer pressure. Research also shows that judgment and decision-making skills are not fully developed during adolescence due to biological immaturity of the brain.<sup>20,21</sup>
- ◆ When a juvenile has committed a heinous and/or premeditated felony offense or has a history of felony offenses, the Rhode Island Attorney General may request that the Family Court Judge voluntarily waive jurisdiction so that the juvenile may be tried as an adult in Superior Court. Waiver of jurisdiction is mandatory for juveniles who are 17 years old and who are charged with murder, first degree sexual assault, or assault with intent to commit murder.<sup>22</sup>
- ◆ In 2016, the Attorney General's Office filed 11 (10 discretionary and one mandatory) motions to waive jurisdiction to try juveniles as adults. Of the discretionary waiver motions, three youth were waived voluntarily, one was waived after a hearing, three waiver motions were denied, and three were pending before the Family Court at the end of 2016.<sup>23</sup>
- ◆ A juvenile in Rhode Island also may be “certified,” allowing the Family Court to sentence the juvenile beyond age 19 if there is otherwise an insufficient period of time in which to accomplish rehabilitation. There were four certification motions filed in 2016 (all of which resulted in certification). While the child is a minor, the sentence is served at the Training School. The youth can be transferred to an adult facility upon reaching age 19, if the Court deems it appropriate.<sup>24,25</sup>

### References

<sup>1</sup> Development Services Group, Inc. (2015). *Risk factors for delinquency-Literature review*. Washington, DC: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

<sup>2</sup> Rhode Island Family Court. (n.d.). *About the Family Court*. Retrieved February 17, 2017, from [www.courts.ri.gov](http://www.courts.ri.gov)

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# Youth at the Training School

## DEFINITION

*Youth at the Training School* is the number of juveniles age 18 or under who were in the care or custody of the Rhode Island Training School at any time during the calendar year, including youth in community placements while in the care or custody of the Training School.

## SIGNIFICANCE

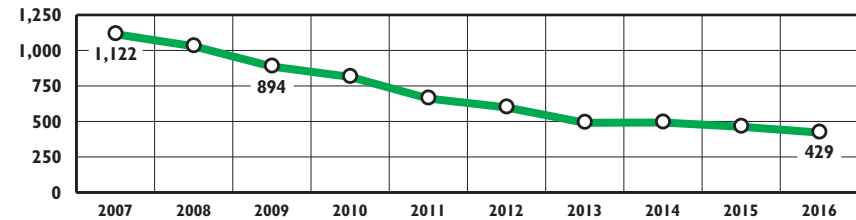
The juvenile justice system is responsible for ensuring community safety by promoting the positive development of youth in its care while recognizing that children have different developmental needs than adults.<sup>1</sup>

During adolescence, the brain's executive functions (including the ability to regulate emotions, control impulses, and weigh benefits and risk) have not fully developed. Judgment and decision-making skills continue to grow into the mid-twenties.<sup>2</sup> Compared to adults, adolescents often show poor self-control, are easily influenced by peers, and less likely to think through the consequences of their actions. Most youth involved in delinquency in adolescence will cease engaging in law-breaking behavior when they become adults as part of the normal maturation process.<sup>3</sup>

Juvenile justice systems have a range of options for monitoring and rehabilitating youth in addition to incarceration, including probation, restorative justice programs, and evidence-based treatment programs such as Functional Family Therapy, Multi-Systemic Therapy, and Multi-Dimensional Treatment Foster Care. Alternatives to incarceration have been shown to be more effective in preventing recidivism and more cost-effective than incarceration. The most successful programs involve family in treatment and promote healthy development at the individual, family, school, and peer levels.<sup>4,5,6</sup>

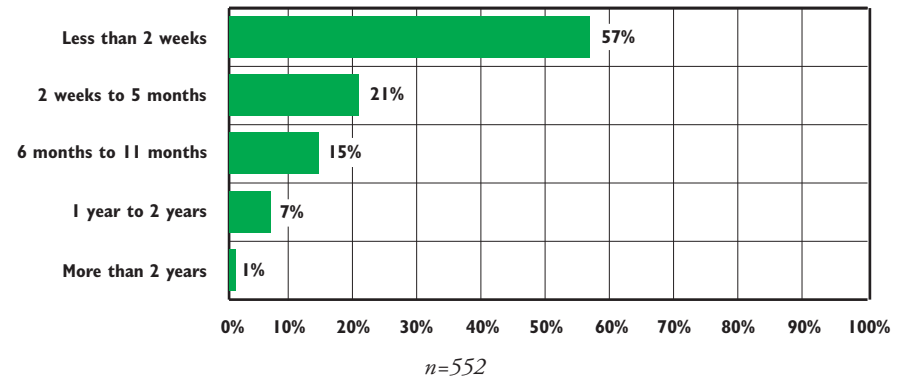
The Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) operates the Rhode Island Training School, the state's secure facility for adjudicated youth and youth in detention awaiting trial. A total of 429 youth (82% male and 18% female) were in the care or custody of the Training School at some point during 2016, down from 470 during 2015. Between 2015 and 2016, the number of females at the Training School decreased by 33% and the number of males decreased by 1%. On December 31, 2016, there were 114 youth in the care or custody of the Training School, 62 of whom were physically at the Training School.<sup>7</sup>

**Youth in the Care and Custody of the Rhode Island Training School, Calendar Years 2007-2016**



◆ Between 2007 and 2016, the annual total number of youth in the care and custody of the Training School at any point during the year declined from 1,122 to 429. Some of this decline is due to the cap that was placed on the population at the Training School in July 2008 of 148 boys and 12 girls on any given day. The population further declined by 52% between 2009 and 2016.

**Discharges from the Rhode Island Training School, by Length of Time in Custody, Calendar Year 2016**



Source: Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, RICHIST, 2007-2016. Total discharges (552) are higher than the total number of youth who passed through the Training School (429) due to some youth being discharged from the Training School more than once in 2016.

## Youth at the Training School by Age

- ◆ During 2016, there were no children age 10 or under, three children ages 11-12, 74 youth ages 13-14, 217 youth ages 15-16, and 180 youth ages 17-19 held at the Training School.<sup>8</sup> The average age for youth at the Training School was 15 years.
- ◆ Rhode Island is one of 12 states that has no statutory minimum age for holding children in secure confinement and no minimum age of delinquency jurisdiction.<sup>9,10</sup>

## Promoting Rehabilitation and Preventing Recidivism

- ◆ Nationally and in Rhode Island, youth crime, including violent crime, has fallen sharply since 1995.<sup>11</sup> In 2010, the rate at which states hold youth in secure confinement reached a 35-year low, with almost every state reducing the number and percentage of youth held in secure facilities.<sup>12</sup>
- ◆ The Rhode Island Training School is an important resource for the rehabilitation of youth who commit serious offenses and who pose a danger to the community. However, a growing body of research shows that incarceration of youth does not reduce and can even increase criminal behavior, as well as increase recidivism among youth with less serious offense histories. Research also suggests that increasing the length of time a youth is held in secure confinement has no impact on future offending and that sentencing youth to long stays in correctional facilities is an ineffective rehabilitation strategy.<sup>13,14</sup>
- ◆ Jurisdictions throughout the country have used objective admissions screening tools to limit the use of secure detention to serious offenders. The Rhode Island General Assembly passed a law in 2008 that mandates the use of a screening tool (called a Risk Assessment Instrument, RAI) for Rhode Island youth being considered for secure detention. The RAI has been piloted but has not yet been fully implemented.<sup>15,16</sup>
- ◆ Of the 429 youth who were in the care or custody of the Training School at some point during 2016, 21% (92) were admitted at least twice in 2016, and 8% (36) were admitted to the Training School three or more times.<sup>17</sup>

## Probation for Rhode Island Youth

- ◆ The purpose of Juvenile Probation is to provide supervision and monitoring to youth who are under court jurisdiction to ensure that they comply with court orders and conditions of probation.<sup>18</sup> The Juvenile Probation division at DCYF serves youth placed in community-based residential settings as well as those living at home and in foster care. Youth on probation have access to an array of services to help support them in the community and reduce the likelihood that they will reoffend.<sup>19</sup>
- ◆ On January 3, 2017, there were 444 youth on the DCYF probation caseload (387 males and 57 females). Two percent of youth on probation were ages 11-13, 25% were ages 14-15, 54% were ages 16-17, and 19% were age 18 or older.<sup>20</sup>
- ◆ Half (54%) of youth on probation on January 3, 2017 were White, 22% were Black, 2% were American Indian, 1% was Asian, 10% were multiracial, and 11% were of undetermined race. Thirty-two percent of youth were identified as Hispanic, who may be of any race.<sup>21</sup>

## Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI)

- ◆ The Annie E. Casey Foundation's Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) works in jurisdictions across the U.S. to strengthen juvenile justice systems by promoting policies and practices to reduce inappropriate and unnecessary use of secure detention, reduce racial and ethnic disparities, and improve public safety. JDAI promotes the vision that youth involved in the juvenile justice system are best served using proven, family-focused interventions, and creating opportunities for positive youth development. For youth who are not a threat to public safety, JDAI promotes the use of high-quality community-based programs that provide supervision, accountability, and therapeutic services while avoiding the negative outcomes associated with incarceration.
- ◆ In 2009, Rhode Island juvenile justice stakeholders joined in partnership with the Annie E. Casey Foundation to become a statewide JDAI site. The Rhode Island initiative has used JDAI's strategies to focus on reducing unnecessary and inappropriate use of secure confinement and enhancing community-based alternatives to detention.<sup>22</sup>

# Youth at the Training School

## Disproportionate Minority Contact in Juvenile Justice Systems

◆ Minority youth, especially Black youth, are disproportionately represented at every stage of the juvenile justice system. Youth of color are more likely to be arrested, formally charged in court, placed in secure detention, and receive harsher treatment than White youth.<sup>23</sup> The federal *Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP)* requires states to collect data and implement strategies to reduce disproportionate minority contact with the juvenile justice system.<sup>24</sup>

### Disproportionate Minority Contact in Rhode Island

|              | % OF TOTAL CHILD POPULATION, 2010 | % OF YOUTH IN THE CARE AND CUSTODY OF RHODE ISLAND TRAINING SCHOOL, 2016 |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| White        | 64%                               | 49%                                                                      |
| Hispanic     | 21%                               | 34%                                                                      |
| Black        | 6%                                | 28%                                                                      |
| Asian        | 3%                                | 1%                                                                       |
| Multi-Racial | 5%                                | 10%                                                                      |
| Other*       | 2%                                | 2%                                                                       |
| Unknown      | NA                                | 10%                                                                      |
| <i>n</i> =   | 223,956                           | 429                                                                      |

◆ Youth of color are disproportionately more likely than White youth to be detained or sentenced to the Training School. During 2016, Black youth made up 28% of youth at the Training School, while making up 6% of the child population.

*\*Other includes American Indian and Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander, and Some other race.*

Sources: Child Population data by race are from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census. Youth at the Training School data are from the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF). Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

## Girls in the Juvenile Justice System

◆ Girls make up a growing share of youth involved in the juvenile justice system. Girls in the juvenile justice system enter with different personal and offense histories and needs than their male peers. Girls are more likely than boys to be detained for non-serious offenses and many have experienced traumatic events, including physical and sexual abuse. Effective programs for girls in the juvenile justice system use a developmental approach that addresses the social contexts that influence girls' behavior, including family, peers, and community.<sup>25</sup>

## Risk Factors for Rhode Island Youth at the Training School

### History of Child Abuse and Neglect

◆ Seventeen (4%) of the 429 youth in the care or custody of the Training School during 2016 had at some point in their childhood been victims of documented child abuse or neglect.<sup>26</sup>

◆ Children who experience child abuse or neglect are at an increased risk for developing behavior problems and becoming involved in the juvenile justice system.<sup>27</sup>

### Behavioral Health Needs

◆ In 2015 (the most recent year for which data are available), 173 youth (128 males and 45 females) received mental health services at the Training School for psychiatric diagnoses other than conduct disorders and substance abuse disorders. During 2015, 115 residents (91 males and 24 females) received substance abuse treatment services. Of these, 60 (all males) received residential substance abuse treatment. Eighty-one youth sentenced to the Training School received psychopharmacologic treatment during 2015.<sup>28</sup>

### Educational Attainment

◆ While the average age of youth at the Training School in 2016 was 15 years, students' math skills were on average at the fourth grade level and their reading levels were on average at the fifth grade level at entry to the Training School.

◆ Of the youth in ninth through twelfth grades who received educational services at the Training School during the 2016 academic year, 56% received special education services and had Individualized Education Plans (IEPs).

◆ During 2016, 21 youth graduated from high school while serving a sentence at the Training School (16 earned a GED and five graduated with a high school diploma). An additional 48 youth received post-secondary education services at the Training School during the 2016 academic year.<sup>29</sup>

### Teen Pregnancy and Parenting

◆ Nationally, 20% of youth in custody report having a child or expecting a child. The percentage of youth in custody who report they already have children (15% of teen males and 9% of teen females) is much higher than the general population (2% and 6%, respectively).<sup>30</sup>

Table 28.

**Youth in the Care or Custody of the Rhode Island Training School, 2016**

| CITY/TOWN          | TOTAL POPULATION AGES 13-18 | # OF ADJUDICATED YOUTH AT THE RITS | TOTAL # OF YOUTH AT THE RITS |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Barrington         | 1,802                       | 0                                  | 0                            |
| Bristol            | 1,780                       | 1                                  | 0                            |
| Burrillville       | 1,319                       | 1                                  | 4                            |
| Central Falls      | 1,859                       | 5                                  | 30                           |
| Charlestown        | 554                         | 0                                  | 1                            |
| Coventry           | 3,010                       | 2                                  | 11                           |
| Cranston           | 6,184                       | 6                                  | 20                           |
| Cumberland         | 2,746                       | 2                                  | 5                            |
| East Greenwich     | 1,362                       | 0                                  | 2                            |
| East Providence    | 3,243                       | 4                                  | 9                            |
| Exeter             | 642                         | 0                                  | 2                            |
| Foster             | 430                         | 0                                  | 0                            |
| Glocester          | 878                         | 0                                  | 2                            |
| Hopkinton          | 693                         | 0                                  | 0                            |
| Jamestown          | 436                         | 0                                  | 0                            |
| Johnston           | 2,025                       | 2                                  | 7                            |
| Lincoln            | 1,851                       | 2                                  | 4                            |
| Little Compton     | 228                         | 0                                  | 1                            |
| Middletown         | 1,229                       | 2                                  | 3                            |
| Narragansett       | 948                         | 0                                  | 2                            |
| New Shoreham       | 50                          | 0                                  | 0                            |
| Newport            | 1,604                       | 3                                  | 12                           |
| North Kingstown    | 2,407                       | 1                                  | 2                            |
| North Providence   | 2,027                       | 0                                  | 9                            |
| North Smithfield   | 970                         | 0                                  | 0                            |
| Pawtucket          | 5,514                       | 9                                  | 42                           |
| Portsmouth         | 1,596                       | 1                                  | 1                            |
| Providence         | 16,515                      | 48                                 | 168                          |
| Richmond           | 637                         | 0                                  | 0                            |
| Scituate           | 963                         | 0                                  | 0                            |
| Smithfield         | 1,856                       | 1                                  | 3                            |
| South Kingstown    | 3,540                       | 1                                  | 4                            |
| Tiverton           | 1,115                       | 0                                  | 6                            |
| Warren             | 675                         | 0                                  | 1                            |
| Warwick            | 5,883                       | 4                                  | 16                           |
| West Greenwich     | 568                         | 0                                  | 1                            |
| West Warwick       | 1,891                       | 4                                  | 17                           |
| Westerly           | 1,705                       | 2                                  | 9                            |
| Woonsocket         | 3,112                       | 5                                  | 14                           |
| Out-of-State       | NA                          | 5                                  | 21                           |
| Four Core Cities   | 27,000                      | 67                                 | 254                          |
| Remainder of State | 58,847                      | 39                                 | 154                          |
| Rhode Island       | 85,847                      | 106                                | 408                          |

## Youth in Detention in Rhode Island

◆ In Rhode Island, the term “detention” is used to describe the temporary custody of a juvenile, who is accused of a wayward or delinquent offense, at the Training School pending the adjudication of his or her case. The only two legal reasons for pre-trial detention include cases where a youth poses a threat to public safety or is at risk for not attending his or her next court hearing.<sup>31,32</sup>

◆ Some youth are detained for short periods of time and released at their first court appearance (usually the following business day). Of the 552 discharges from the Training School during 2016, 27% resulted in stays of two days or less, 29% resulted in stays of three days to two weeks, and 44% resulted in stays of more than two weeks.<sup>33</sup>

### Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, Rhode Island Children’s Information System (RICHIST), 2016; and the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

Youth included in the adjudicated column may or may not have been in detention at the Training School prior to adjudication.

Total number of youth includes adjudicated and detained youth who were in the care or custody of the Rhode Island Training School during calendar year 2015 (including youth from out of state, those with unknown addresses and those in temporary community placements). Youth with out-of-state and unknown addresses are not included in the Rhode Island, four core cities, or remainder of state totals.

There is no statutory lower age limit for sentencing, however adjudicated children under age 13 typically do not serve sentences at the Training School.

An “out-of-state” designation is given to youth whose parent(s) have an address on file that is outside of Rhode Island or to a youth who lives in another state, but commits a crime in Rhode Island and is sentenced to serve time at the Training School. They are not included in the Rhode Island total.

### References

<sup>1,3,5,14,23</sup> National Research Council. (2013). *Reforming juvenile justice: A developmental approach*. Committee on Assessing Juvenile Justice Reform. Bonnie, R.J., Johnson, R.J., Chemers, B., Schuck, J. A., Eds. Committee on Law and Justice, Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.

<sup>2</sup> Gottesman, D. & Schwarz, S. W. (2011). *Juvenile justice in the U.S.: Facts for policymakers*. New York, NY: Columbia University, National Center for Children in Poverty.

<sup>4</sup> Juvenile Justice Information Exchange. (n.d.). *What are community-based alternatives?* Retrieved March 1, 2017, from www.jjic.org

<sup>6,13</sup> *No place for kids: The case for reducing juvenile incarceration*. (2011). Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation.

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# Children of Incarcerated Parents

## DEFINITION

*Children of incarcerated parents* is the number of children with parents serving sentences at the Rhode Island Department of Corrections per 1,000 children under age 18. The data are reported by the place of the parent's last residence before entering prison and do not include Rhode Island children who have parents incarcerated at other locations.

## SIGNIFICANCE

More than five million children in the U.S. (7% of all U.S. children) have had a parent incarcerated in jail or state or federal prison at least once.<sup>1</sup>

Parental incarceration can contribute to children's insecure attachment to their parent, which can lead to poor developmental outcomes. Children of incarcerated parents experience high rates of physical and mental health problems (including asthma, depression, and anxiety) and educational problems (including grade retention, absenteeism, and dropping out). Parental incarceration increases children's risk for learning disabilities, ADHD, conduct problems, developmental delays, and speech problems.<sup>2,3,4,5</sup>

Nationally, most children of incarcerated parents live with their other parent, a grandparent, or other relatives.<sup>6</sup> Of the 1,857 parents incarcerated in Rhode Island on September 30, 2016 (including those awaiting trial), 93%

(1,730) were fathers and 7% (127) were mothers.<sup>7</sup> Nationally, nearly half (48%) of incarcerated parents lived with their children one month prior to incarceration.<sup>8</sup>

Children of incarcerated parents are more likely than other children to be involved with the child welfare system. In the U.S. in 2013, 8% (almost 20,000) of children who entered foster care did so at least in part due to the incarceration of a parent.<sup>9</sup> These children often represent complex cases for child welfare agencies, involving balancing parental rights with the safety and well-being of the child.<sup>10</sup>

Programs and policies targeted at the unique needs of incarcerated pregnant women and mothers can improve outcomes for them and their families. Keeping siblings together, providing family counseling and access to mental health care, mentoring, peer support services, and prison transition supports can alleviate the worst effects of parents' imprisonment on children and improve the family reunification process.<sup>11,12</sup>

Of the 1,857 parents incarcerated in Rhode Island on September 30, 2016 (including those awaiting trial), 41% were White, 30% were Black, 26% were Hispanic, and 3% were of another race. Sixty-four percent of incarcerated parents with a known in-state residence identified one of the four core cities as their last place of residence.<sup>13</sup>

## Parents at the Rhode Island Adult Correctional Institutions (ACI), September 30, 2016

|                    | INMATES SURVEYED* | # REPORTING CHILDREN | % REPORTING CHILDREN | # OF CHILDREN REPORTED |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Awaiting Trial     | 621               | 390                  | 63%                  | 861                    |
| Serving a Sentence | 2,476             | 1,467                | 59%                  | 3,285                  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>       | <b>3,097</b>      | <b>1,857</b>         | <b>60%</b>           | <b>4,146</b>           |

Source: Rhode Island Department of Corrections, September 30, 2016. \*Does not include inmates who were missing responses to the question on number of children, inmates on home confinement, or those from another state's jurisdiction.

- ◆ Of the 3,097 inmates awaiting trial or serving a sentence at the ACI on September 30, 2016 and answered the question on number of children, 1,857 inmates reported having 4,146 children. Thirty-six percent of sentenced mothers and 12% of sentenced fathers had sentences that were six months or less.<sup>14</sup>
- ◆ Of the 83 sentenced mothers on September 30, 2016, 43% were serving a sentence for a nonviolent offense, 36% for a violent offense, 11% for a drug-related offense, 6% for breaking and entering, and 2% for a sex-related offense. Of the 1,385 sentenced fathers, 45% were serving sentences for a violent offense, 19% for a nonviolent offense, 16% for a drug-related offense, 13% for a sex-related offense, and 6% for breaking and entering.<sup>15</sup>
- ◆ Thirty-nine percent of incarcerated parents awaiting trial or serving a sentence on September 30, 2016 had less than a high school diploma, 47% had a high school diploma or a GED, and 13% had at least some college education.<sup>16</sup>
- ◆ A supportive family, education, job training, stable housing, employment assistance, medical and mental health services, and substance abuse treatment are critical to parents' successful transition to the community after incarceration and also to support the well-being of their children.<sup>17,18</sup>
- ◆ Families with parents with a criminal record can experience significant challenges even if the parent has never been incarcerated. A parent's criminal record is often an obstacle to securing employment, participating in education and training programs, accessing housing supports, and obtaining public assistance.<sup>19</sup>

# Children of Incarcerated Parents

Table 29.

**Children of Incarcerated Parents, Rhode Island, September 30, 2016**

| CITY/TOWN                | # OF INCARCERATED PARENTS | # OF CHILDREN REPORTED* | 2010 TOTAL POPULATION UNDER AGE 18 | RATE PER 1,000 CHILDREN |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Barrington               | 1                         | 2                       | 4,597                              | 0.4                     |
| Bristol                  | 10                        | 19                      | 3,623                              | 5.2                     |
| Burrillville             | 10                        | 24                      | 3,576                              | 6.7                     |
| Central Falls            | 69                        | 169                     | 5,644                              | 29.9                    |
| Charlestown              | 3                         | 3                       | 1,506                              | 2.0                     |
| Coventry                 | 20                        | 37                      | 7,770                              | 4.8                     |
| Cranston                 | 69                        | 132                     | 16,414                             | 8.0                     |
| Cumberland               | 20                        | 60                      | 7,535                              | 8.0                     |
| East Greenwich           | 5                         | 13                      | 3,436                              | 3.8                     |
| East Providence          | 33                        | 81                      | 9,177                              | 8.8                     |
| Exeter                   | 2                         | 3                       | 1,334                              | 2.2                     |
| Foster                   | 2                         | 5                       | 986                                | 5.1                     |
| Glocester                | 1                         | 2                       | 2,098                              | 1.0                     |
| Hopkinton                | 3                         | 4                       | 1,845                              | 2.2                     |
| Jamestown                | 3                         | 5                       | 1,043                              | 4.8                     |
| Johnston                 | 24                        | 49                      | 5,480                              | 8.9                     |
| Lincoln                  | 3                         | 5                       | 4,751                              | 1.1                     |
| Little Compton           | 1                         | 2                       | 654                                | 3.1                     |
| Middletown               | 8                         | 18                      | 3,652                              | 4.9                     |
| Narragansett             | 7                         | 16                      | 2,269                              | 7.1                     |
| New Shoreham             | 0                         | 0                       | 163                                | 0.0                     |
| Newport                  | 28                        | 74                      | 4,083                              | 18.1                    |
| North Kingstown          | 8                         | 21                      | 6,322                              | 3.3                     |
| North Providence         | 31                        | 65                      | 5,514                              | 11.8                    |
| North Smithfield         | 4                         | 6                       | 2,456                              | 2.4                     |
| Pawtucket                | 129                       | 289                     | 16,575                             | 17.4                    |
| Portsmouth               | 3                         | 5                       | 3,996                              | 1.3                     |
| Providence               | 486                       | 1,090                   | 41,634                             | 26.2                    |
| Richmond                 | 3                         | 8                       | 1,849                              | 4.3                     |
| Scituate                 | 1                         | 2                       | 2,272                              | 0.9                     |
| Smithfield               | 5                         | 10                      | 3,625                              | 2.8                     |
| South Kingstown          | 15                        | 29                      | 5,416                              | 5.4                     |
| Tiverton                 | 9                         | 22                      | 2,998                              | 7.3                     |
| Warren                   | 6                         | 12                      | 1,940                              | 6.2                     |
| Warwick                  | 56                        | 97                      | 15,825                             | 6.1                     |
| West Greenwich           | 2                         | 5                       | 1,477                              | 3.4                     |
| West Warwick             | 56                        | 117                     | 5,746                              | 20.4                    |
| Westerly                 | 7                         | 16                      | 4,787                              | 3.3                     |
| Woonsocket               | 135                       | 327                     | 9,888                              | 33.1                    |
| Unknown Residence        | 120                       | 280                     | NA                                 | NA                      |
| Out-of-State Residence** | 69                        | 161                     | NA                                 | NA                      |
| Four Core Cities         | 819                       | 1,875                   | 73,741                             | 25.4                    |
| Remainder of State       | 459                       | 969                     | 150,215                            | 6.5                     |
| Rhode Island             | 1,278                     | 2,844                   | 223,956                            | 12.7                    |

## Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Rhode Island Department of Corrections, September 30, 2016. Offenders who were on Home Confinement and the awaiting trial population are excluded from this table.

U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010.

Since the 2007 Factbook, data are reported as of September 30, with the exception of the 2015 Factbook, in which data were reported as of October 10, 2014.

\*Data on the number of children are self-reported by the incarcerated parents and may include some children over age 18. Nationally and in Rhode Island, much of the existing research has relied upon self-reporting by incarcerated parents or caregivers.

\*\*Data on Out-of-State Residence includes inmates who are under jurisdiction in Rhode Island, but report an out-of-state address. Inmates who were from another state's jurisdiction, but serving time in Rhode Island, are not included in the Rhode Island, four core cities, or remainder of state rates, nor are those with an unknown residence.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

## References

- <sup>14</sup> Murphey, D. & Cooper, P. M. (2015). *Parents behind bars: What happens to their children?* Retrieved February 13, 2017, from [www.childtrends.org](http://www.childtrends.org)
- <sup>2</sup> Shlafer, R. J., Gerrity, E., Ruhland, E., & Wheeler, M. (2013). *Children with incarcerated parents- Considering children's outcomes in the context of family experiences.* Retrieved December 22, 2015, from [www.cyfc.umcn.edu](http://www.cyfc.umcn.edu)
- <sup>3</sup> Uggen, C. & McElrath, S. (2014). Parental incarceration: What we know and where we need to go. *Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology*, 104(3), 597-604.
- <sup>5</sup> Turney, K. (2014). Stress proliferation across generations? Examining the relationship between parental incarceration and childhood health. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, 55(3), 302-319.
- <sup>6,8,9,10</sup> Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2015). *Child welfare practice with families affected by parental incarceration.* Retrieved December 22, 2015, from [www.childwelfare.gov](http://www.childwelfare.gov)
- <sup>7,13,14,15,16</sup> Rhode Island Department of Corrections, September 30, 2016.

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# Children Witnessing Domestic Violence

## DEFINITION

*Children witnessing domestic violence* is the percentage of reported domestic violence incidents resulting in an arrest in which children under age 18 were present in the home. The data are based on police reports of domestic violence. Domestic violence is the use of physical force, or threat of force, against a current or former partner in an intimate relationship, resulting in fear and emotional and/or physical suffering.

## SIGNIFICANCE

An estimated 10 million U.S. children are exposed to domestic violence each year. Rates of partner violence are higher among couples with children than those without children.<sup>12</sup> In Rhode Island in 2014 (the most recent year for which full data are available), police reports indicate that children were present at 35% of domestic violence incidents resulting in arrests.<sup>3</sup>

Children can be exposed to domestic violence in a number of ways. They may witness it directly (by seeing and/or hearing violent incidents), have their lives disrupted by moving or being separated from a parent, and/or may be used by the abusive parent to manipulate or gain control over the victim. Children who are exposed to domestic violence are more likely to be victims of child abuse and neglect than those who are not.<sup>4,5</sup> Children may also

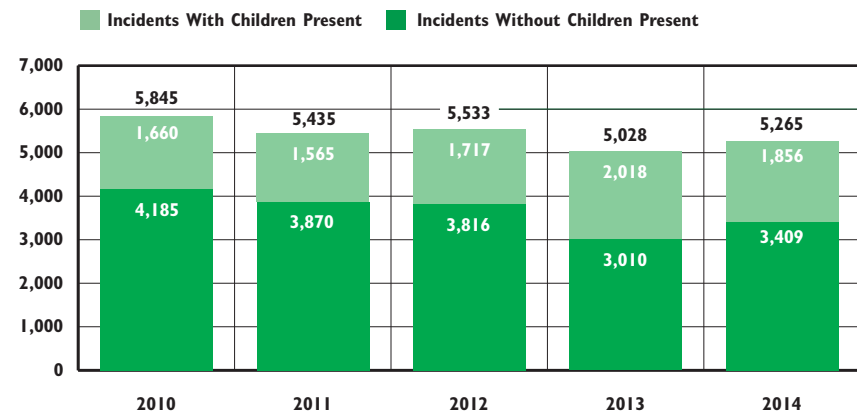
lose a parent to domestic homicide.<sup>6,7</sup>

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 in life. Children who witness domestic violence are more likely to experience physical, emotional, health, and learning challenges throughout their childhood and adulthood. They are more likely to have concentration and memory problems, and to have difficulty with school performance than children who do not witness domestic violence.<sup>8,9,10</sup>

While many children who have witnessed domestic violence show resilience, exposure to violence may impair a child's capacity for partnering and parenting later in life. There is a strong association between witnessing domestic violence as a child and becoming a perpetrator of domestic violence as an adult.<sup>11,12</sup>

Incidents of domestic violence are historically under-reported. Nationally, it is estimated that 41% of family violence incidents are not reported to police.<sup>13</sup> Rhode Island data may similarly under-represent the number of domestic violence incidents witnessed by children because not all incidents are reported to police and children may be unwilling to admit that they witnessed the incident.<sup>14</sup>

## Domestic Violence Incidents Resulting in Arrest, Rhode Island, 2010-2014\*



Source: Rhode Island Supreme Court Domestic Violence Training and Monitoring Unit, 2010-2014. Includes domestic violence reports resulting from an arrest by local police and Rhode Island State Police. \*2015 data are not yet complete and will be updated in next year's Factbook.

◆ In Rhode Island in 2014 (the most recent year for which full data are available), there were 5,265 domestic violence incidents that resulted in arrests, up 5% from 5,028 incidents in 2013. Children were reported present in 35% (1,856) of incidents in 2014.<sup>15</sup> Rhode Island police officers document children's exposure to violence on reporting forms by noting the number and ages of minor children living in the home, how many were present during the incident, how many saw the incident and how many heard it.<sup>16</sup>

◆ Rhode Island police reported that children saw the domestic violence incident in 1,165 arrests and children heard the incident in 1,283 arrests during 2014. These incidents were not mutually exclusive and more than one child may have witnessed the incident.<sup>17</sup>

◆ Rhode Island's statewide network of six domestic violence shelters and advocacy programs provides services to victims, including shelter, transitional housing, advocacy, individual and group counseling, and education.<sup>18</sup> During 2016, the network provided services to 8,710 individuals, including 447 children (compared to 8,934 and 587, respectively, in 2015). In 2016, 237 children and 241 adults spent a total of 21,476 nights in domestic violence shelters. Eighty-one children and 51 adults lived in domestic violence transitional housing (longer-term private apartments for victims of domestic violence) during 2016.<sup>19</sup>

# Children Witnessing Domestic Violence

Table 30. Children Present During Domestic Violence Incidents Resulting in Arrests, Rhode Island, 2014\*

| CITY/TOWN                 | TOTAL # OF REPORTS | TOTAL # OF INCIDENTS WITH CHILDREN PRESENT | % WITH CHILDREN PRESENT |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Barrington                | 40                 | 9                                          | 23%                     |
| Bristol                   | 79                 | 21                                         | 27%                     |
| Burrillville              | 53                 | 18                                         | 34%                     |
| Central Falls             | 171                | 72                                         | 42%                     |
| Charlestown               | 32                 | 11                                         | 34%                     |
| Coventry                  | 133                | 50                                         | 38%                     |
| Cranston                  | 318                | 136                                        | 43%                     |
| Cumberland                | 110                | 41                                         | 37%                     |
| East Greenwich            | 36                 | 8                                          | 22%                     |
| East Providence           | 228                | 97                                         | 43%                     |
| Exeter***                 | NA                 | NA                                         | NA                      |
| Foster                    | 28                 | 11                                         | 39%                     |
| Glocester                 | 24                 | 5                                          | 21%                     |
| Hopkinton                 | 31                 | 11                                         | 35%                     |
| Jamestown                 | 5                  | 2                                          | 40%                     |
| Johnston                  | 161                | 53                                         | 33%                     |
| Lincoln                   | 50                 | 25                                         | 50%                     |
| Little Compton            | 9                  | 0                                          | 0%                      |
| Middletown                | 100                | 35                                         | 35%                     |
| Narragansett              | 69                 | 29                                         | 42%                     |
| New Shoreham              | 3                  | 1                                          | 33%                     |
| Newport                   | 230                | 67                                         | 29%                     |
| North Kingstown           | 88                 | 35                                         | 40%                     |
| North Providence          | 227                | 60                                         | 26%                     |
| North Smithfield          | 50                 | 24                                         | 48%                     |
| Pawtucket                 | 678                | 242                                        | 36%                     |
| Portsmouth                | 75                 | 19                                         | 25%                     |
| Providence                | 794                | 302                                        | 38%                     |
| Richmond                  | 23                 | 9                                          | 39%                     |
| Scituate                  | 25                 | 8                                          | 32%                     |
| Smithfield                | 57                 | 16                                         | 28%                     |
| South Kingstown           | 88                 | 38                                         | 43%                     |
| Tiverton                  | 83                 | 32                                         | 39%                     |
| Warren                    | 74                 | 35                                         | 47%                     |
| Warwick                   | 284                | 93                                         | 33%                     |
| West Greenwich            | 21                 | 5                                          | 24%                     |
| West Warwick              | 285                | 81                                         | 28%                     |
| Westerly                  | 135                | 59                                         | 44%                     |
| Woonsocket**              | 295*               | 72*                                        | 24%*                    |
| Rhode Island State Police | 73                 | 24                                         | 33%                     |
| Four Core Cities          | 1,938              | 688                                        | 36%                     |
| Remainder of State        | 3,254              | 1,144                                      | 35%                     |
| Rhode Island              | 5,265              | 1,856                                      | 35%                     |

## Support for Children Witnessing Domestic Violence

◆ With the help of caring adults, children who have witnessed domestic violence can develop resilience and thrive. Effective therapeutic interventions often focus on supporting parents, and can include increasing parenting skills, assisting parents in addressing mental health issues, and supporting parents' efforts to live in safe environments. Other strategies include connecting children to adult mentors, identifying and nurturing areas of strength, and encouraging children to contribute to their families or communities in a positive way.<sup>20</sup>

### Source of Data for Table/Methodology

\*Data for 2015 were incomplete at the time of publication and will be published in next year's Factbook. 2014 data are repeated here.

The number of domestic violence incident reports in which an arrest was made and the number of incidents in which children were present are based on the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault/Child Molestation Reporting Forms sent by Rhode Island law enforcement to the Rhode Island Supreme Court Domestic Violence Training and Monitoring Unit between January 1, 2014 and December 31, 2014.

The data are only the incidents during which an arrest was made in which children were present, and do not represent the total number of children who experienced domestic violence in their homes. More than one child may have been present at an incident.

\*\*Data for Woonsocket are provisional.

\*\*\*Reports of domestic violence in Exeter are included in the Rhode Island State Police numbers. Rhode Island State Police numbers are included in the Rhode Island state totals.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

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# Child Abuse and Neglect

## DEFINITION

*Child abuse and neglect* is the total unduplicated number of victims of child abuse and neglect per 1,000 children. Child abuse includes physical, sexual, and emotional abuse. Child neglect includes emotional, educational, physical, and medical neglect, as well as a failure to provide for basic needs.

## SIGNIFICANCE

Children need love, affection, and nurturing from their parents or caregivers for healthy physical and emotional development. Experiencing child abuse or neglect can have lifelong consequences for a child's health, well-being, and relationships with others. Parents or caregivers are at increased risk for maltreating children in their care if they are overwhelmed by multiple risk factors such as poverty, divorce, substance abuse, and/or mental health problems.<sup>1</sup> The immediate effects of child abuse and neglect include isolation, fear, injury and even death. Children who have been maltreated are at increased risk for delinquency, substance abuse, mental health problems, teen pregnancy, impaired cognition, and low academic achievement.<sup>2,3</sup>

Responding to reports of child abuse and neglect and ensuring child safety are important functions of child protection systems. Maintaining the capacity to focus on prevention is

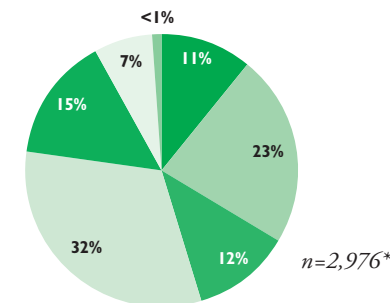
equally critical and more cost-effective. In Rhode Island, if an investigation does not reveal maltreatment but family stressors and risk factors are identified, Child Protective Services (CPS) refers families to community-based support services to reduce the risk of future involvement with the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF). When maltreatment has occurred, a determination may be made that it is safe for the children to remain at home when families are willing to work with community providers. In both of these cases, DCYF makes referrals to regional Family Care Community Partnerships (FCCP) agencies. They work with the family to identify appropriate services and resources, including natural supports (persons and resources that families can access independent from formal services).<sup>4</sup>

In 2016 in Rhode Island, there were 2,074 indicated investigations of child abuse and neglect involving 2,971 children. The child abuse and neglect rate per 1,000 children under age 18 was more than two times higher in the four core cities (19.8 victims per 1,000 children) compared to the remainder of the state (8.7 victims per 1,000 children). Almost half (46%) of the victims of child abuse and neglect in 2016 were young children under age six and one-third (34%) were ages three and younger.<sup>5</sup>

## Child Abuse and Neglect, Rhode Island, 2016

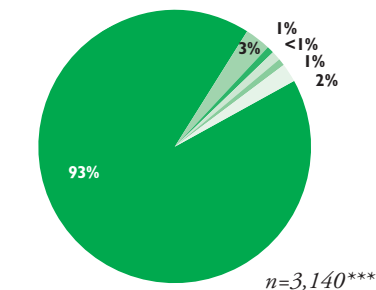
### By Age of Victim\*

|           |                   |
|-----------|-------------------|
| 11% (327) | Under Age 1       |
| 23% (685) | Ages 1 to 3       |
| 12% (345) | Ages 4 to 5       |
| 32% (957) | Ages 6 to 11      |
| 15% (438) | Ages 12 to 15     |
| 7% (222)  | Ages 16 and Older |
| <1% (2)   | Unknown           |



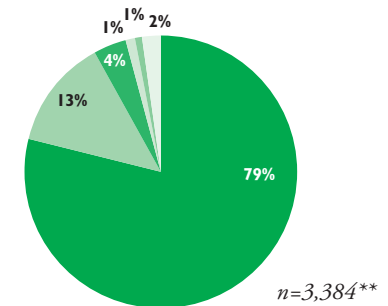
### By Relationship of Perpetrator to Victims\*\*\*

|             |                             |
|-------------|-----------------------------|
| 93% (2,929) | Parents                     |
| 3% (97)     | Relatives/Household Members |
| 1% (32)     | Foster Parents              |
| <1% (7)     | Child Care Providers        |
| 1% (23)     | Residential Facility Staff  |
| 2% (52)     | Other or Unknown            |



### By Type of Neglect/Abuse\*\*

|             |                 |
|-------------|-----------------|
| 79% (2,673) | Neglect         |
| 13% (450)   | Physical Abuse  |
| 4% (134)    | Sexual Abuse    |
| 1% (50)     | Medical Neglect |
| 1% (18)     | Emotional Abuse |
| 2% (59)     | Other           |



### Notes on Pie Charts

\*These data reflect an unduplicated count of child victims. The number of victims is higher than the number of indicated investigations. One indicated investigation can involve more than one child victim.

\*\*This number is greater than the unduplicated count of child victims because children often experience more than one maltreatment event and/or more than one type of abuse. Within each type of abuse and neglect incidents, the number of child victims is unduplicated.

\*\*\*Perpetrators can abuse more than one child and can abuse a child more than once. This number is a duplicated count of perpetrators based on the number of abuse and neglect incidents. Under Rhode Island law, Child Protective Services can only investigate alleged perpetrators who are legally defined as caretakers to the victim(s), except in situations of child sexual abuse by another child.

Source: Rhode Island DCYF, Rhode Island Children's Information System (RICHIST), 2016. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

## DCYF Child Protective Services (CPS) Hotline Calls for Reports of Abuse and/or Neglect, Investigations,\* and Indicated Investigations, Rhode Island, 2007-2016

| YEAR | TOTAL # UNDUPLICATED CHILD MALTREATMENT REPORTS | % AND # OF REPORTS WITH COMPLETED INVESTIGATIONS | # OF INDICATED INVESTIGATIONS |
|------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2007 | 13,542                                          | 54% (7,363)                                      | 2,396                         |
| 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                         |

Source: Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, RIC HIST, 2007-2016.

\*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).

◆ After increasing annually between 2011 and 2014, the number of child maltreatment reports, completed investigations, and indicated investigations declined between 2014 and 2015 in Rhode Island. Between 2015 and 2016, the numbers of unduplicated child maltreatment reports increased by 4%, completed investigations decreased by 8%, and indicated investigations decreased by 7%. In 2016, 35% (2,074) of the 5,935 completed investigations of child maltreatment were indicated.<sup>6</sup> An indicated investigation is one in which there is a preponderance of evidence that child abuse and/or neglect occurred.<sup>7</sup>

◆ Of the 14,942 maltreatment reports in 2016, 53% (7,948) were classified as “information/referrals” (formerly “early warnings”).<sup>8</sup> Information/referrals are reports made to the CPS Hotline that contain a concern about the well-being of a child but do not meet the criteria for an investigation. Criteria for investigation include that the victim is a minor, the alleged perpetrator is a legal caretaker or is living in the home, there is reasonable cause to believe that abuse or neglect circumstances exist, and there is a specific incident or pattern of incidents suggesting that harm can be identified. When essential criteria for investigation are not present, the report may lead to a referral to other services or to the information being passed on to a DCYF caseworker (depending on whether the family is active with DCYF).<sup>9,10</sup>

## Emergency Department Visits, Hospitalizations, and Deaths Due to Child Abuse and/or Neglect, Rhode Island, 2011-2015

| YEAR         | # OF EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITS | # OF HOSPITALIZATIONS | # OF DEATHS** |
|--------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| 2011         | 159                              | 38                    | 2             |
| 2012         | 153                              | 25                    | 1             |
| 2013         | 133                              | 34                    | 3             |
| 2014         | 102                              | 44                    | 1             |
| 2015         | 92                               | 28                    | 0             |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>639</b>                       | <b>169</b>            | <b>7</b>      |

Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, 2011-2015. Data for 2014 and 2015 are provisional.

\*\*Due to a change in data source, data for child deaths due to child abuse and/or neglect are only comparable with Factbooks since 2013.

◆ Between 2011 and 2015, there were 639 emergency department visits, 169 hospitalizations, and seven deaths of Rhode Island children under age 18 due to child abuse and/or neglect.<sup>11</sup> Nationally, 73% of child maltreatment deaths involved neglect and 44% involved physical abuse (because a victim may have suffered more than one type of maltreatment, these categories are not mutually exclusive).<sup>12</sup>

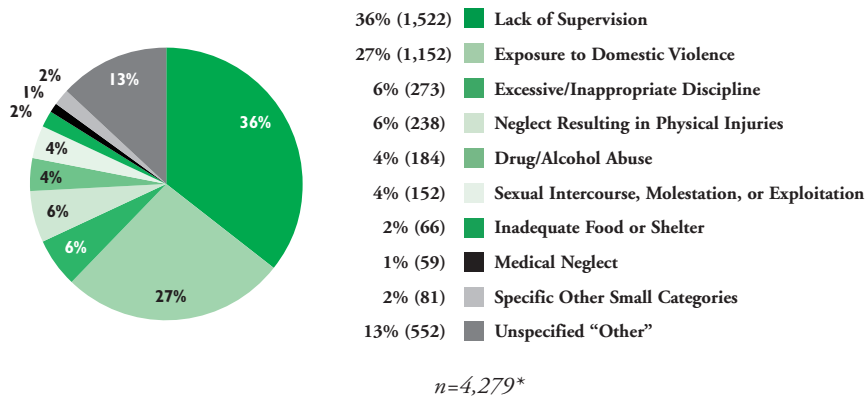
## Child Abuse and Neglect in Rhode Island Communities

◆ Many parents at risk of child abuse and neglect lack essential parenting skills and are struggling with a combination of social and economic issues. These families can benefit from programs that enhance social supports, parental resilience, and knowledge of parenting and child development.<sup>13</sup> In addition, providing access to child care, early childhood learning programs, and evidence-based home visiting programs (such as the Nurse-Family Partnership) to families with multiple risk factors can prevent the occurrence and recurrence of child abuse and neglect.<sup>14,15,16</sup>

◆ In 2016, Rhode Island had 12.3 child victims of abuse and neglect per 1,000 children, down from a rate of 13.8 per 1,000 children in 2015. With a rate of 29.2 victims per 1,000 children, Woonsocket had the highest rate of child victims of abuse and neglect in the state. Other cities and towns with rates higher than 20 victims per 1,000 children were Central Falls (25.7), and Pawtucket (22.1).<sup>17</sup>

# Child Abuse and Neglect

**Indicated Allegations of Child Neglect, by Nature of Neglect, Rhode Island, 2016**



◆ The importance of adequate capacity, affordability, and quality of child care, preschool, other early childhood programs and after-school opportunities is highlighted by the fact that of the 4,279 indicated allegations (confirmed claims) of neglect to children under age 18 in Rhode Island in 2016, 36% involved lack of supervision.

◆ The second largest category of neglect (27%) is “exposure to domestic violence.” These are instances where the neglect is related to the child witnessing domestic violence in the home.

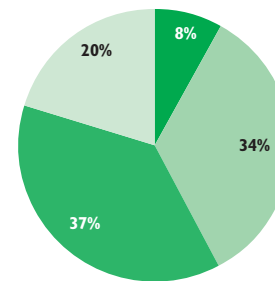
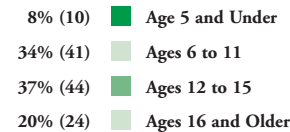
◆ The “specific other small categories” include: emotional abuse (21), educational neglect (16), corporal punishment (13), tying/close confinement (9), abandonment (8), inadequate clothing (6), inappropriate restraint (6), and emotional neglect (2).

*\*The total refers to indicated allegations of neglect. Some children were victims of neglect more than once. Multiple allegations may be involved in each indicated investigation. Numbers do not include indicated allegations of institutional neglect.*

Source: Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, RICHIST, 2016.

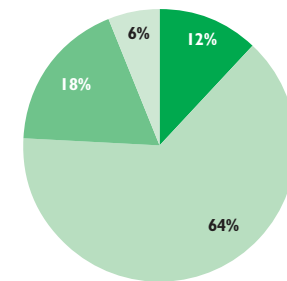
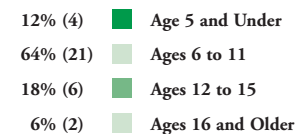
**Child Sexual Abuse, by Gender and Age of Victim, Rhode Island, 2016**

**Girls**



*n=119*

**Boys**



*n=33*

Source: Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, RICHIST, 2016. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

◆ In Rhode Island in 2016, there were 152 indicated allegations (confirmed claims) of child sexual abuse. Some children were victims of sexual abuse more than once. The victim was a female in 78% (119) of the 152 indicated allegations of sexual abuse. Forty-three percent of the female victims were known to be under age 12, while 76% of the male victims were under age 12.<sup>18</sup>

◆ The perpetrator is a relative or person known to the victim in the majority of cases of child sexual abuse. Sexual abuse by family members is more common than sexual abuse by strangers.<sup>19</sup>

Table 31.

Indicated Investigations of Child Abuse and Neglect, Rhode Island, 2016

| CITY/TOWN          | # OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 | # OF INDICATED INVESTIGATIONS OF CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT | INDICATED INVESTIGATIONS PER 1,000 CHILDREN | # OF VICTIMS OF CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT | CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT VICTIMS PER 1,000 CHILDREN |
|--------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Barrington         | 4,597                      | 7                                                    | 1.5                                         | 15                                  | 3.3                                            |
| Bristol            | 3,623                      | 21                                                   | 5.8                                         | 28                                  | 7.7                                            |
| Burrillville       | 3,576                      | 21                                                   | 5.9                                         | 29                                  | 8.1                                            |
| Central Falls      | 5,644                      | 81                                                   | 14.4                                        | 145                                 | 25.7                                           |
| Charlestown        | 1,506                      | 8                                                    | 5.3                                         | 10                                  | 6.6                                            |
| Coventry           | 7,770                      | 54                                                   | 6.9                                         | 64                                  | 8.2                                            |
| Cranston           | 16,414                     | 104                                                  | 6.3                                         | 130                                 | 7.9                                            |
| Cumberland         | 7,535                      | 28                                                   | 3.7                                         | 48                                  | 6.4                                            |
| East Greenwich     | 3,436                      | 14                                                   | 4.1                                         | 24                                  | 7.0                                            |
| East Providence    | 9,177                      | 70                                                   | 7.6                                         | 90                                  | 9.8                                            |
| Exeter             | 1,334                      | 4                                                    | 3.0                                         | 5                                   | 3.7                                            |
| Foster             | 986                        | 5                                                    | 5.1                                         | 14                                  | 14.2                                           |
| Glocester          | 2,098                      | 6                                                    | 2.9                                         | 13                                  | 6.2                                            |
| Hopkinton          | 1,845                      | 12                                                   | 6.5                                         | 19                                  | 10.3                                           |
| Jamestown          | 1,043                      | 5                                                    | 4.8                                         | 6                                   | 5.8                                            |
| Johnston           | 5,480                      | 37                                                   | 6.8                                         | 40                                  | 7.3                                            |
| Lincoln            | 4,751                      | 31                                                   | 6.5                                         | 40                                  | 8.4                                            |
| Little Compton     | 654                        | 0                                                    | 0.0                                         | 2                                   | 3.1                                            |
| Middletown         | 3,652                      | 27                                                   | 7.4                                         | 34                                  | 9.3                                            |
| Narragansett       | 2,269                      | 15                                                   | 6.6                                         | 20                                  | 8.8                                            |
| New Shoreham       | 163                        | 0                                                    | 0.0                                         | 0                                   | 0.0                                            |
| Newport            | 4,083                      | 72                                                   | 17.6                                        | 72                                  | 17.6                                           |
| North Kingstown    | 6,322                      | 29                                                   | 4.6                                         | 42                                  | 6.6                                            |
| North Providence   | 5,514                      | 67                                                   | 12.2                                        | 82                                  | 14.9                                           |
| North Smithfield   | 2,456                      | 8                                                    | 3.3                                         | 9                                   | 3.7                                            |
| Pawtucket          | 16,575                     | 282                                                  | 17.0                                        | 366                                 | 22.1                                           |
| Portsmouth         | 3,996                      | 27                                                   | 6.8                                         | 27                                  | 6.8                                            |
| Providence         | 41,634                     | 484                                                  | 11.6                                        | 663                                 | 15.9                                           |
| Richmond           | 1,849                      | 3                                                    | 1.6                                         | 4                                   | 2.2                                            |
| Scituate           | 2,272                      | 17                                                   | 7.5                                         | 18                                  | 7.9                                            |
| Smithfield         | 3,625                      | 6                                                    | 1.7                                         | 11                                  | 3.0                                            |
| South Kingstown    | 5,416                      | 39                                                   | 7.2                                         | 38                                  | 7.0                                            |
| Tiverton           | 2,998                      | 27                                                   | 9.0                                         | 41                                  | 13.7                                           |
| Warren             | 1,940                      | 21                                                   | 10.8                                        | 37                                  | 19.1                                           |
| Warwick            | 15,825                     | 73                                                   | 4.6                                         | 106                                 | 6.7                                            |
| West Greenwich     | 1,477                      | 2                                                    | 1.4                                         | 6                                   | 4.1                                            |
| West Warwick       | 5,746                      | 85                                                   | 14.8                                        | 110                                 | 19.1                                           |
| Westerly           | 4,787                      | 42                                                   | 8.8                                         | 68                                  | 14.2                                           |
| Woonsocket         | 9,888                      | 175                                                  | 17.7                                        | 289                                 | 29.2                                           |
| Four Core Cities   | 73,741                     | 1,022                                                | 13.9                                        | 1,463                               | 19.8                                           |
| Remainder of State | 150,215                    | 987                                                  | 6.6                                         | 1,302                               | 8.7                                            |
| Rhode Island       | 223,956                    | 2,009                                                | 9.0                                         | 2,765                               | 12.3                                           |

### Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Data are from the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, Rhode Island Children's Information System (RICHIST), Calendar Year 2016.

Victims of child abuse/neglect are unduplicated counts of victims with substantiated allegations of child abuse and/or neglect. More than one victim can be involved in an investigation.

An indicated investigation is an investigated report of child abuse and/or neglect for which a preponderance of evidence exists that child abuse and/or neglect occurred. An indicated investigation can involve more than one child and multiple allegations. City/town reports of indicated investigations omit certain investigations, particularly those where there are data entry errors affecting location. For this reason, the city/town table includes fewer indicated investigations than the chart with reports/investigations and indicated cases.

Data cannot be compared to Factbooks prior to 2009. The denominator is the number of children under age 18 according to the U.S. Census 2010 and the numerator is an unduplicated count of child victims. Previous Factbooks used children under age 21 as the denominator and the indicated investigations as the numerator to calculate the rate of indicated investigations per 1,000 children.

In 2008, Rhode Island lowered the eligibility age for entry into DCYF services to under age 18, although some youth remain eligible for services after their 18th birthday.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

### References

<sup>1,13,14</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. (2015). *Making meaningful connections: 2015 prevention resource guide*. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office.

<sup>2</sup> *Long-term consequences of child abuse and neglect*. (2013). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Bureau, Child Welfare Information Gateway.

(continued on page 184)

# Children in Out-of-Home Placement

## DEFINITION

*Children in out-of-home placement* is the number of children who have been removed from their families and are in the care of the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) while awaiting permanency. Out-of-home placements include foster care homes, group homes, shelter care, residential facilities, and medical facilities. Permanency can be achieved through reunification with the family, adoption, or guardianship.

## SIGNIFICANCE

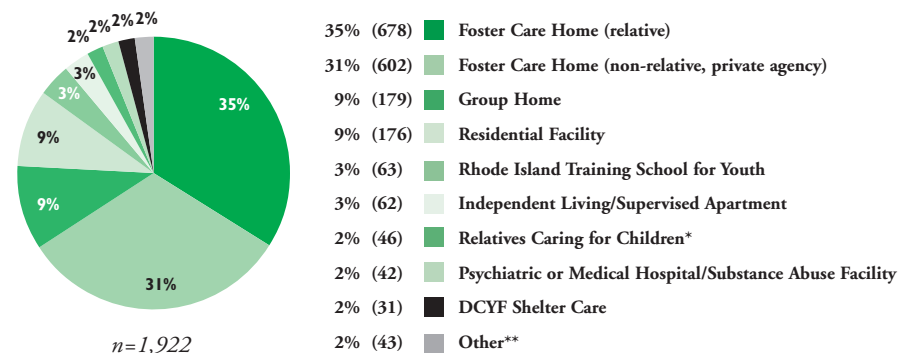
Children need stability, permanency, and safety for healthy development. Removal from the home may be necessary for the child's safety and well-being; however, critical connections and a sense of permanency may be lost when a child is placed out-of-home.<sup>1</sup> Permanency planning efforts should begin as soon as a child enters the child welfare system so that a permanent living situation can be achieved as quickly as possible.<sup>2</sup> The federal *Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008* (*Fostering Connections Act*) promotes permanency through supports for relative guardianship and incentives for adoption.<sup>3</sup>

Rhode Island children in out-of-home care often experience multiple placements, lose contact with family

members, and may have overlooked educational, physical, and mental health needs.<sup>4</sup> Children in out-of-home care suffer more physical, developmental, and mental health problems than their peers.<sup>5,6</sup> Long-term stays in care can cause emotional, behavioral, or educational problems that can negatively impact children's long-term well-being and success.<sup>7</sup> Children in foster care are more likely than their peers to change schools, be suspended, qualify for special education, repeat a grade and drop out of school.<sup>8</sup> Appropriate supports and services can help youth in care maximize their potential and ensure that they are prepared for higher education and work.<sup>9</sup>

Children of color are overrepresented at all decision points in the child welfare system, including reporting, screening, investigation, assessment, recruiting and retaining resource families, and permanency.<sup>10</sup> Minority children in child welfare systems experience significantly worse outcomes, have more placement changes, receive fewer supports, stay in the child welfare system longer, are less likely to be adopted or reunited with their families, have fewer contacts with caseworkers, less access to mental health and substance abuse services, and are placed in detention or correctional facilities at higher rates than White children.<sup>11</sup>

**Children in Out-of-Home Placement, Rhode Island, December 31, 2016**



\*Relatives caring for children are classified as an out-of-home placement by DCYF, despite the fact that these relatives did not receive monetary payments from DCYF to care for the children and the children were never removed and never needed to be removed from the relatives' homes. In these cases, the relative caring for the child initiated contact with DCYF to receive assistance from the agency.

\*\*The placement category "Other" includes: runaway youth in DCYF care or those with unauthorized absences (36), pre-adoptive homes (5), and minors with mother in shelter/group home/residential facility (2).

- ◆ As of December 31, 2016, there were 1,922 children under age 21 in the care of DCYF who were in out-of-home placements.
- ◆ The total caseload of DCYF on December 31, 2016 was 6,699, including 2,141 children living in their homes under DCYF supervision and 2,566 children living in adoption settings. After an increase in caseload numbers for the past two years, this total caseload shows a decrease from 7,089 in 2015.
- ◆ The total DCYF caseload also includes 63 children in out-of-state placements/other agency custody, three children receiving respite care services, one youth in Job Corps, and two children in other placements.
- ◆ On December 31, 2016, 355 children were living in a residential facility or group home, a decline of 11% from 400 children on December 31, 2015. The percentage of children in out-of-home placement who were in a relative foster care home increased from 34% on December 31, 2015 to 35% on December 31, 2016.

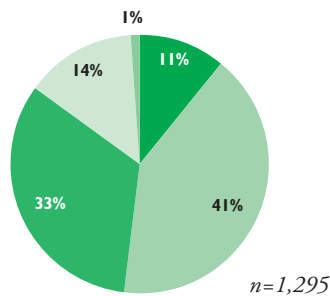
Source: RI Department of Children, Youth and Families, RICHIST, 2006-2016.

# Children in Out-of-Home Placement

## Children and Youth in Out-of-Home Placement by Type of Setting and Age, Rhode Island\*

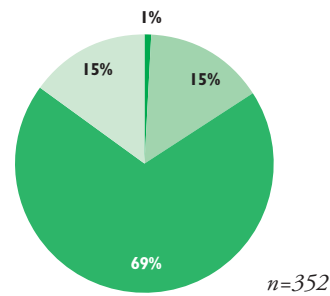
### In Foster Care Homes

|     |       |                  |
|-----|-------|------------------|
| 11% | (141) | Under Age 1      |
| 41% | (536) | Ages 1 to 5      |
| 33% | (426) | Ages 6 to 13     |
| 14% | (176) | Ages 14 to 17    |
| 1%  | (16)  | Ages 18 and Over |



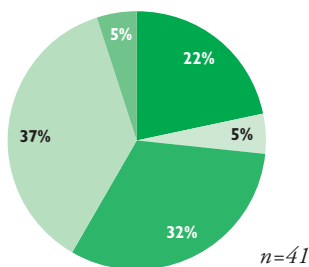
### In Group Homes and Residential Facilities\*\*

|     |       |                  |
|-----|-------|------------------|
| 0%  | (0)   | Under Age 1      |
| 1%  | (2)   | Ages 1 to 5      |
| 15% | (53)  | Ages 6 to 13     |
| 69% | (244) | Ages 14 to 17    |
| 15% | (53)  | Ages 18 and Over |



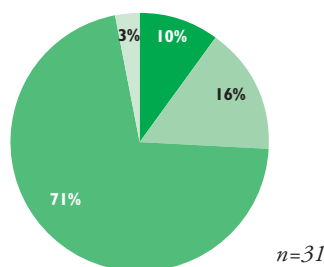
### In Medical Facilities\*\*\*

|     |      |                  |
|-----|------|------------------|
| 22% | (9)  | Under Age 1      |
| 5%  | (2)  | Ages 1 to 5      |
| 32% | (13) | Ages 6 to 13     |
| 37% | (15) | Ages 14 to 17    |
| 5%  | (2)  | Ages 18 and Over |



### In Shelter Care

|     |      |                  |
|-----|------|------------------|
| 0%  | (0)  | Under Age 1      |
| 10% | (3)  | Ages 1 to 5      |
| 16% | (5)  | Ages 6 to 13     |
| 71% | (22) | Ages 14 to 17    |
| 3%  | (1)  | Ages 18 and Over |



\*Pie charts show data for a single point-in-time (Foster Care Homes-January 3, 2017; Group Homes and Residential Facilities, Medical Facilities, and Shelter Care-December 31, 2016.)

\*\*Residential facilities do not include psychiatric hospitals, medical hospitals, or the Rhode Island Training School.

\*\*\*Medical facilities data includes medical hospitals (14), psychiatric hospitals (27), and substance abuse treatment facilities (0).

Source: Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, Rhode Island Children's Information System (RICHIST), January 2017. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding. Data do not match chart on previous page due to different report dates.

## Safety, Permanency, and Well-Being

### Fostering Connections

◆ The federal *Fostering Connections Act* promotes kinship care and family connections by requiring states to notify relatives when a child is placed in foster care and providing funding for states offering kinship guardianship assistance payments.<sup>12</sup> Rhode Island's guardianship assistance program defines kin broadly and includes any adult who has a close and caring relationship with the child, including godparents, caretakers, close family friends, neighbors, and clergy.<sup>13</sup>

### Placement Stability

◆ In Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2016, 11.2% of the 1,289 children who had been in out-of-home care for less than one year had experienced three or more placements, up from 10.9% in FFY 2015. Three or more placements were experienced by 26.7% of the 827 children who were in care between 12 and 24 months, up from 24.7% in FFY 2015. Fifty-one percent of the 737 children who had been in care for 24 months or more in FFY 2016 experienced three or more placements, down from 54.8% in FFY 2015.<sup>14</sup>

### Recurrence of Abuse and Neglect

◆ Of the 1,495 Rhode Island children who were victims of abuse or neglect during FFY 2016 (whether or not they were removed from the home), 6.8% experienced one or more recurrences of abuse or neglect within six months, down from 9.3% in FFY 2015. The national standard is 6.1% or fewer.<sup>15</sup>

### Shelter Care

◆ The number of children in shelter care (facilities providing emergency care to eight children or less for no more than 90 days each) decreased from 32 on December 31, 2015 to 31 on December 31, 2016. Three of these Rhode Island children in shelter care were under age six; five were ages six to 13; and 23 were age 14 and older.<sup>16</sup>

### References

<sup>1</sup> Williams-Mbengue, N. (2008). *Moving children out of foster care - The legislative role in finding permanent homes for children. Permanency: A key concept for children in foster care.* Washington, DC: National Conference of State Legislatures.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families. 1998. *Program instruction: Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997.* Retrieved March 3, 2017, from [www.acf.hhs.gov](http://www.acf.hhs.gov)

(continued on page 184)

# Permanency for Children in DCYF Care

## DEFINITION

*Permanency for children in DCYF care* is the percentage of children in out-of-home care who transition to a permanent living arrangement through reunification, adoption, or guardianship. Data are for all children who were in out-of-home placement with the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) during the Federal Fiscal Year.

## SIGNIFICANCE

The uncertainty of multiple, prolonged, or unstable out-of-home placements can negatively affect children's emotional well-being, which has an impact on behavior, academic achievement, and the formation of secure relationships.<sup>1,2</sup> Particular attention must be paid to populations of children for whom permanency may be more difficult to achieve, including older children, minority children, sibling groups, and children with mental, emotional, or behavioral health needs.<sup>3,4,5</sup> Planning for permanency requires a mix of family-centered and legal strategies designed to ensure that children and youth have safe, stable, and lifelong connections with caring adults.<sup>6,7,8</sup>

Reunification with parents is the most common permanency outcome for children who have been in foster care.<sup>9</sup> When reunification is not possible, child

welfare agencies focus on placing children in another permanent family through adoption or guardianship.<sup>10</sup> Federal law requires states to notify relatives when a child is placed in foster care, provides funding for states offering kinship guardianship assistance payments, provides incentive payments for adoptions of older children and children with special needs, and requires that states inform families considering adopting a child in foster care about the availability of the federal adoption tax credit.<sup>11,12</sup>

Children and youth who live in families (kinship or non-kinship) while in the child welfare system are better prepared to thrive in permanent homes, whether through reunification, adoption, or guardianship.<sup>13</sup>

Youth who age out of foster care experience high rates of economic hardship (inability to pay rent, utilities, etc.), low educational attainment, homelessness, unemployment, and poor physical and mental health. They are more likely to enter the criminal justice system, become young parents, and enroll in public assistance programs.<sup>14</sup>

The federal *Fostering Connections Act of 2008* and *Strengthening Families Act of 2014* provide a wide range of incentives and strategies for states to support children and youth while in foster care as well as permanency.<sup>15</sup>

## Exits from Foster Care\*, Rhode Island, FFY 2016

|                      | ALL EXITS    | WITH DISABILITY | OVER AGE 12 AT ENTRY |
|----------------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| <b>Adoption</b>      | 23%          | 22%             | 2%                   |
| <b>Guardianship</b>  | 11%          | 7%              | 6%                   |
| <b>Reunification</b> | 48%          | 42%             | 49%                  |
| <b>Aged Out</b>      | 12%          | NA**            | 29%                  |
| <b>Other</b>         | 6%           | 29%             | 15%                  |
| <b>TOTAL NUMBER</b>  | <b>1,220</b> | <b>381</b>      | <b>430</b>           |

Source: *Safety, permanency, and well-being in Rhode Island: Child welfare outcomes annual report for FY 2016*. (2017). New Haven, CT: Prepared by the Consultation Center, Yale University School of Medicine for the Data Analytic Center of the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

\*Foster Care refers to all out-of-home placements, consistent with language used in federal reports.

\*\*Children with a disability who age out are included in the "other" category.

◆ **In Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2016, 1,220 children in out-of-home placement in Rhode Island exited foster care. Of the children who exited, 82% exited to permanency (adoption, guardianship, or reunification). Children who were over age 12 when they entered foster care were more likely to age out of care without achieving permanency.<sup>16</sup>**

◆ **In FFY 2016, 13.2% of children in Rhode Island who entered out-of-home placement re-entered care within 12 months of a prior episode, above the national standard of 8.6%.<sup>17</sup>**

## Reunification, FFY 2016

◆ **The percentage of children in the Rhode Island child welfare system who were reunified with their family of origin in less than 12 months from the time of removal from the home decreased from 68% in FFY 2015 to 65.9% in FFY 2016. The national standard is 76.2% of reunifications occurring within 12 months of the child's removal.<sup>18</sup>**

◆ **In 2016, 56% of child maltreatment cases in Rhode Island involved neglect.<sup>19</sup> Poverty, parental substance abuse, and mental health problems are leading contributors to neglect. Achieving timely and successful reunification requires access to substance abuse and mental health treatment, as well as interventions designed to improve the economic status of families.<sup>20</sup>**

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## Subsidized Guardianship, FFY 2016

◆ The federal *Fostering Connections Act* provides funding for states offering kinship guardianship assistance payments. Rhode Island's guardianship assistance program defines kin broadly as any adult who has a close and caring relationship with the child, including godparents, caretakers, close family friends, neighbors, and clergy.<sup>21</sup> Rates of children exiting foster care to guardianship in Rhode Island increased from 10.8% in FFY 2015 to 11.3% in FFY 2016.<sup>22</sup>

## Adoptions of Children in DCYF Care, 2016

◆ During Calendar Year 2016, 265 children in the care of DCYF were adopted in Rhode Island, up from 231 in 2015. Of these children, 58% were White, 28% were multiracial, 10% were Black, <1% were American Indian, 2% were Asian and 2% were of unknown race. Thirty-one percent of children adopted in 2016 were Hispanic (belonging to any race category).<sup>23</sup>

◆ Of the 265 children adopted, 61% were under age six, 33% were ages six to 13, and 6% were age 14 or older.<sup>24</sup>

## Rhode Island Children Waiting to be Adopted, September 30, 2016

◆ On September 30, 2016, there were 275 Rhode Island children in the care of DCYF who were waiting to be adopted. Of these, 2% of children were under age one, 43% were ages one to five, 26% were ages six to 10, 21% were ages 11 to 15, and 9% were ages 16 and older.<sup>25</sup>

◆ Of all waiting children, 40% were White, 27% were Hispanic, 16% were Black, 16% were Two or more races, <1% were Asian, <1% were Native American, and 1% were of unknown race/ethnicity.<sup>26</sup>

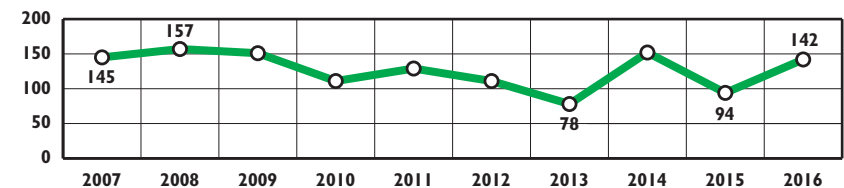
◆ Of the 275 children waiting to be adopted, 32% (88) were children of parents whose parental rights had been legally terminated.<sup>27</sup>

◆ In FFY 2016, 40% of children in the Rhode Island child welfare system were adopted within 24 months from the time of removal from their home, up from 39% in FFY 2015. Rhode Island exceeded the national standard of 32% of adoptions occurring within 24 months of the child's removal in FFY 2016.<sup>28</sup>

## Youth Aging Out of Foster Care

◆ Youth who exit foster care to adulthood never having gained permanency through adoption, guardianship, or reunification are considered to have "aged out" of foster care. As of July 1, 2007, youth in Rhode Island age out of the foster care system at age 18, a change from age 21 in previous years. Youth with serious emotional disturbances, autism, or a functional developmental disability continue to have their cases managed by DCYF and remain legally entitled to services through age 21.<sup>29</sup>

## Rhode Island Youth Aging Out of Foster Care, FFY 2007-2016



Source: *Safety, permanency, and well-being in Rhode Island: Child welfare outcomes annual reports for FY 2007-2016*. New Haven, CT: Prepared by the Consultation Center, Yale University School of Medicine for the Data Analytic Center of the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families.

◆ The number of Rhode Island youth who exited foster care never having gained permanency through reunification, adoption, or guardianship increased from 94 during FFY 2015 to 142 during FFY 2016.<sup>30</sup>

◆ Beginning January 1, 2014, the federal *Affordable Care Act (ACA)* allows youth who have aged out of foster care to have Medicaid coverage until age 26, regardless of their income. This provides former foster youth the same access to health coverage as other young adults, who are allowed to remain on their parents' commercial health coverage until age 26.<sup>31</sup>

◆ If states extend foster care to age 21, an option that the federal *Fostering Connections Act* encourages, the potential benefits in terms of increased educational attainment, reduced reliance on public assistance, and increased earnings will more than offset the costs to states.<sup>32</sup>

## References

<sup>1</sup> Wedeles, J. (n.d.). *Placement stability in child welfare*. Retrieved March 9, 2017, from [www.oacas.org](http://www.oacas.org)

<sup>23</sup> Walsh, W. A. & Mattingly, M. J. (2011). *Long-term foster care – Different needs, different outcomes*. Durham, NH: The Carsey Institute.

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# Education

# Children Enrolled in Early Intervention

## DEFINITION

*Children enrolled in Early Intervention* is the number and percentage of children under age three who have an active Individual Family Service Plan through a Rhode Island Early Intervention provider.

## SIGNIFICANCE

During the first few years of life, children develop the basic brain architecture that serves as a foundation for all future development and learning. Early and effective intervention for vulnerable young children yields improved long-term outcomes.<sup>1</sup>

In 1986, Congress established Early Intervention (EI) services for infants and toddlers under the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)*. Part C of *IDEA* requires states to identify and provide appropriate EI services to children under age three who are developmentally delayed or have a diagnosed condition that is associated with a developmental delay. States may also choose to serve children who are at risk of experiencing a delay if early intervention services are not provided.<sup>2</sup>

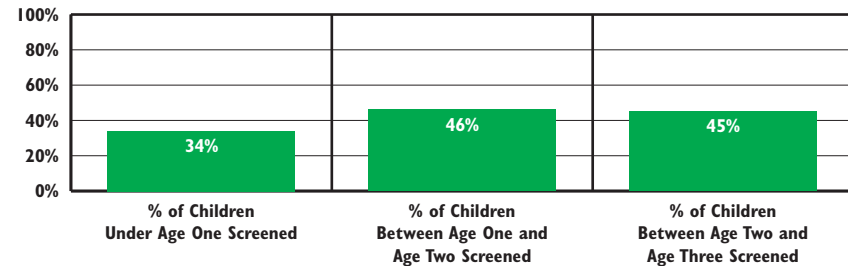
In Rhode Island, children are eligible for EI if they have a diagnosed medical disorder bearing relatively well-known expectancy for developmental delay (single established condition) or if they have a developmental delay in one or more areas of development (cognitive,

physical, communication, social-emotional, and adaptive). Current eligibility criteria allow children with significant circumstances (e.g., significant trauma/losses, history of abuse/neglect, family lacking basic resources, parental substance abuse, significant parental health/mental health issues, and intellectual disability of caretaker, among others) to qualify through informed clinical opinion if the circumstances impact child or family functioning.<sup>3</sup>

Approximately 15% of U.S. children ages three to 17 have developmental disabilities, with higher prevalence among children from low-income families and among boys. The percentage of children recognized with developmental disabilities has been increasing in recent years due to increased survival rates among preterm infants and children with birth defects/genetic disorders and improved awareness and diagnosis of many conditions.<sup>4</sup>

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that physicians use a standardized developmental screening tool during well-child visits in order to improve detection of developmental delays.<sup>5</sup> Early childhood developmental screenings are required and covered for all children with RItE Care coverage through the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) mandate.<sup>6</sup>

**Developmental Screenings Completed, RItE Care Members Under Age 3, 2015**



Source: Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services, 2015.

◆ As of June 30, 2016, there were 2,022 infants and toddlers receiving Early Intervention (EI) services, 6% of the population under age three. Nineteen percent were under age one, 32% were age one, and 50% were age two. Eighty-one percent were eligible under the developmental delay category and 19% were eligible under the single established condition category.<sup>7</sup>

◆ In Calendar Year 2016 in Rhode Island, 4,186 children received EI services, down from 4,359 in 2015.<sup>8,9</sup> In 2016, 952 children were discharged from EI upon reaching age three. Of these, 63% were found eligible and 20% were found not eligible for preschool special education. Fourteen percent were in the process of eligibility determination and 4% left the program for other reasons.<sup>10</sup>

◆ Because maltreated infants and toddlers are six times more likely to have a developmental delay, federal legislation requires states to refer children under age three who have been involved in a substantiated case of child abuse or neglect to EI for an eligibility assessment.<sup>11,12</sup>

◆ In 2016 in Rhode Island, there were 818 infants and toddlers under age three who were maltreated. Of these, 243 (30%) were referred to Early Intervention for an eligibility assessment, 265 (33%) were referred to First Connections for screening, 26 (3%) were already enrolled in EI or had otherwise been screened, and 284 (35%) were not referred for various reasons. Of the 818 victims of maltreatment in 2016, 133 (16%) had been found eligible for Early Intervention as of March 2017.<sup>13,14</sup>

# Children Enrolled in Early Intervention

Table 32.

Infants and Toddlers Enrolled in Early Intervention (EI) by Age, Rhode Island, 2016

| CITY/TOWN          | CALENDAR YEAR 2016 ENROLLMENT |                              |                                          | JUNE 30, 2016 ENROLLMENT BY AGE OF CHILD |       |       |                                          |                                          |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------|-------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
|                    | # OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 3     | # OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN EI | % OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 3 ENROLLED IN EI | UNDER AGE 1                              | AGE 1 | AGE 2 | # OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 3 ENROLLED IN EI | % OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 3 ENROLLED IN EI |
| Barrington         | 366                           | 44                           | 12%                                      | 7                                        | 4     | 10    | 21                                       | 6%                                       |
| Bristol            | 507                           | 68                           | 13%                                      | 7                                        | 7     | 14    | 28                                       | 6%                                       |
| Burrillville       | 460                           | 61                           | 13%                                      | 5                                        | 12    | 9     | 26                                       | 6%                                       |
| Central Falls      | 1,028                         | 148                          | 14%                                      | 13                                       | 26    | 38    | 77                                       | 7%                                       |
| Charlestown        | 186                           | 23                           | 12%                                      | 3                                        | 1     | 5     | 9                                        | 5%                                       |
| Coventry           | 940                           | 108                          | 11%                                      | 10                                       | 20    | 28    | 58                                       | 6%                                       |
| Cranston           | 2,318                         | 238                          | 10%                                      | 28                                       | 36    | 66    | 130                                      | 6%                                       |
| Cumberland         | 970                           | 121                          | 12%                                      | 7                                        | 17    | 35    | 59                                       | 6%                                       |
| East Greenwich     | 299                           | 53                           | 18%                                      | 1                                        | 12    | 17    | 30                                       | 10%                                      |
| East Providence    | 1,560                         | 178                          | 11%                                      | 11                                       | 30    | 34    | 75                                       | 5%                                       |
| Exeter             | 166                           | 18                           | 11%                                      | 1                                        | 3     | 3     | 7                                        | 4%                                       |
| Foster             | 113                           | 12                           | 11%                                      | 0                                        | 2     | 0     | 2                                        | 2%                                       |
| Glocester          | 247                           | 17                           | 7%                                       | 0                                        | 0     | 3     | 3                                        | 1%                                       |
| Hopkinton          | 258                           | 26                           | 10%                                      | 2                                        | 7     | 6     | 15                                       | 6%                                       |
| Jamestown          | 85                            | 13                           | 15%                                      | 0                                        | 3     | 1     | 4                                        | 5%                                       |
| Johnston           | 816                           | 86                           | 11%                                      | 9                                        | 10    | 18    | 37                                       | 5%                                       |
| Lincoln            | 587                           | 84                           | 14%                                      | 9                                        | 6     | 26    | 41                                       | 7%                                       |
| Little Compton     | 68                            | 6                            | 9%                                       | 0                                        | 3     | 1     | 4                                        | 6%                                       |
| Middletown         | 502                           | 83                           | 17%                                      | 8                                        | 12    | 19    | 39                                       | 8%                                       |
| Narragansett       | 271                           | 31                           | 11%                                      | 7                                        | 1     | 12    | 20                                       | 7%                                       |
| New Shoreham       | 21                            | 0                            | 0%                                       | 0                                        | 0     | 0     | 0                                        | 0%                                       |
| Newport            | 820                           | 103                          | 13%                                      | 11                                       | 18    | 22    | 51                                       | 6%                                       |
| North Kingstown    | 728                           | 93                           | 13%                                      | 7                                        | 17    | 16    | 40                                       | 5%                                       |
| North Providence   | 851                           | 107                          | 13%                                      | 12                                       | 15    | 30    | 57                                       | 7%                                       |
| North Smithfield   | 290                           | 43                           | 15%                                      | 3                                        | 7     | 9     | 19                                       | 7%                                       |
| Pawtucket          | 2,959                         | 309                          | 10%                                      | 25                                       | 43    | 83    | 151                                      | 5%                                       |
| Portsmouth         | 429                           | 46                           | 11%                                      | 3                                        | 9     | 15    | 27                                       | 6%                                       |
| Providence         | 7,609                         | 1,011                        | 13%                                      | 94                                       | 149   | 245   | 488                                      | 6%                                       |
| Richmond           | 235                           | 11                           | 5%                                       | 0                                        | 1     | 2     | 3                                        | 1%                                       |
| Scituate           | 193                           | 33                           | 17%                                      | 2                                        | 8     | 7     | 17                                       | 9%                                       |
| Smithfield         | 402                           | 39                           | 10%                                      | 5                                        | 6     | 9     | 20                                       | 5%                                       |
| South Kingstown    | 640                           | 71                           | 11%                                      | 3                                        | 15    | 17    | 35                                       | 5%                                       |
| Tiverton           | 398                           | 50                           | 13%                                      | 3                                        | 7     | 13    | 23                                       | 6%                                       |
| Warren             | 296                           | 42                           | 14%                                      | 2                                        | 5     | 11    | 18                                       | 6%                                       |
| Warwick            | 2,322                         | 302                          | 13%                                      | 34                                       | 51    | 64    | 149                                      | 6%                                       |
| West Greenwich     | 178                           | 15                           | 8%                                       | 0                                        | 5     | 2     | 7                                        | 4%                                       |
| West Warwick       | 1,044                         | 140                          | 13%                                      | 10                                       | 27    | 28    | 65                                       | 6%                                       |
| Westerly           | 726                           | 60                           | 8%                                       | 6                                        | 8     | 17    | 31                                       | 4%                                       |
| Woonsocket         | 1,900                         | 293                          | 15%                                      | 27                                       | 36    | 73    | 136                                      | 7%                                       |
| Four Core Cities   | 13,496                        | 1,761                        | 13%                                      | 159                                      | 254   | 439   | 852                                      | 6%                                       |
| Remainder of State | 20,292                        | 2,425                        | 12%                                      | 216                                      | 385   | 569   | 1,170                                    | 6%                                       |
| Rhode Island       | 33,788                        | 4,186                        | 12%                                      | 375                                      | 639   | 1,008 | 2,022                                    | 6%                                       |

### Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Center for Child and Family Health, Early Intervention enrollment, Calendar Year 2016 and June 30, 2016 enrollment (point-in-time).

The denominator is the number of children under age three, according to Census 2010, Summary File 1.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

### References

- <sup>1,2,11</sup> Jones, L. (2009). *Early experiences matter: A guide to improved policies for infants and toddlers*. Washington, DC: Zero to Three.
- <sup>3</sup> *Rhode Island Early Intervention policies and procedures: Eligibility determination*. (2013). Cranston, RI: Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services.
- <sup>4</sup> Boyle, C. A., et al. (2011). Trends in the prevalence of developmental disabilities in U.S. children, 1997-2008. *Pediatrics*, 127(6), 1034-1042.
- <sup>5</sup> Council on Children with Disabilities, Section on Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics, Bright Futures Steering Committee and Medical Home Initiatives for Children with Special Needs Project Advisory Committee. (2006). Identifying infants and young children with developmental disorders in the medical home: An algorithm for developmental surveillance and screening. *Pediatrics*, 118(1), 405-420.
- <sup>6</sup> *Birth to 5: Watch me thrive! CMS efforts to ensure children receive developmental and behavioral screening*. (n.d.). Retrieved February 21, 2017, from www.medicare.gov
- <sup>7,8,10,14</sup> Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services, 2016.
- <sup>9</sup> Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services, 2015.
- <sup>12</sup> Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2013). *Addressing the needs of young children in child welfare: Part C- Early Intervention services*. Washington, DC: Children's Bureau.
- <sup>13</sup> Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, 2016.

# Children Enrolled in Early Head Start

## DEFINITION

*Children enrolled in Early Head Start* is the number and percentage of children enrolled in a Rhode Island Early Head Start program.

## SIGNIFICANCE

Established in 1995, Early Head Start is a comprehensive early childhood program serving low-income children birth to age three, pregnant women, and their families. Early Head Start programs serve children in families with incomes below the federal poverty level (\$20,420 for a family of three in 2017).<sup>1,2,3</sup> The federally-funded Early Head Start program is designed to address the comprehensive needs of low-income infants and toddlers and pregnant women by providing high-quality early education, nutrition and mental health services, medical and dental referrals, and fostering the development of healthy family relationships.<sup>4</sup>

Pregnant women enrolled in Early Head Start are assessed for risks to a successful pregnancy. Individualized plans are developed to support prenatal health, promote healthy behaviors, and prepare for the baby's arrival.<sup>5</sup> After the baby is born, families participate by enrolling in either a center-based or a home-based program. Home-based programs use weekly home visits to support child development and twice-monthly group meetings. Children in center-based

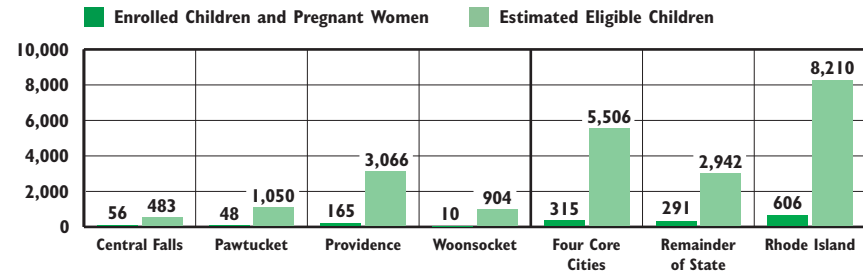
models attend a center-based early care and education program and families receive at least two home visits per year. Some provide a combination of home-based and center-based services.<sup>6</sup>

As of October 2016, of the 606 children and pregnant women enrolled in Early Head Start, 357 were enrolled in home-based services and 249 were in center-based programs.<sup>7</sup> An Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership grant awarded in 2015 created 100 new center-based Early Head Start slots in Rhode Island through partnerships with child care programs to increase the number of infants and toddlers enrolled.<sup>8,9</sup>

Early Head Start has been shown to produce significant cognitive, language, and social-emotional gains in participating children and more positive interactions with their parents. Early Head Start parents provide more emotional support and more opportunities for language and learning to their children, and are more likely to pursue education and job-training activities and to be employed.<sup>10,11</sup> Children who enroll in preschool after Early Head Start have better outcomes in early reading skills.<sup>12</sup>

As of October 2016, 594 infants and toddlers and 12 pregnant women were receiving Early Head Start services in Rhode Island and there were 152 eligible pregnant women or children on the waiting list.<sup>13</sup>

## Access to Early Head Start for Low-Income Children and Pregnant Women, Rhode Island, 2016



Source: Rhode Island Early Head Start program enrollment data compiled by Rhode Island KIDS COUNT, October 2016. Estimated eligible children is the number of children under age three according to Census 2010 multiplied by the % of children under age six living in families with incomes below the federal poverty line (FPL) according to the Population Reference Bureau's analysis of 2011-2015 American Community Survey data.

- ◆ As of October 2016 in Rhode Island, there were 606 children and pregnant women enrolled in Early Head Start, 7% of the estimated eligible population. There were 315 children and pregnant women from the four core cities (6% of the estimated income-eligible population) and 291 children and pregnant women from the remainder of the state (10% of the estimated income-eligible population). The estimated percentage of the eligible population enrolled in Early Head Start for each core city is: Central Falls – 12%, Pawtucket – 5%, Providence – 7%, and Woonsocket – 1%.<sup>14,15</sup>
- ◆ As of October 2016, 2% of Early Head Start clients were pregnant women, 19% were infants under age one, 32% were age one, 42% were toddlers age two, and 6% were age three.<sup>16</sup>
- ◆ Rhode Island Head Start programs serve significant numbers of children with high needs including: 79 infants and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities (13% of all children enrolled), 23 children who were in foster care, and 22 children who were homeless.<sup>17</sup> Early Head Start programs are required to prioritize enrollment for children with special needs and to screen all enrolled children to identify developmental delays and disabilities.<sup>18</sup>
- ◆ As of October 2016, 36% of the children enrolled in Early Head Start were also participating in the Child Care Assistance Program.<sup>19</sup> Center-based Early Head Start programs do not cover the entire day for many working parents. CCAP is used to provide additional coverage for working parents.<sup>20</sup>

# Children Enrolled in Early Head Start

Table 33. Children Ages Birth to Three and Pregnant Women Enrolled in Early Head Start, Rhode Island, 2016

| CITY/TOWN          | ALL CHILDREN <AGE 3 | % OF CHILDREN <AGE 6 IN POVERTY | ESTIMATED ELIGIBLE POPULATION <AGE 3 IN POVERTY | # ENROLLED IN HOME-BASED EARLY HEAD START | # ENROLLED IN CENTER-BASED EARLY HEAD START | ESTIMATED % CHILDREN <AGE 3 ENROLLED IN EARLY HEAD START | ESTIMATED % ELIGIBLE POPULATION ENROLLED IN EARLY HEAD START |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Barrington         | 366                 | 1.0%                            | 4                                               | 1                                         | 1                                           | 1%                                                       | 55%                                                          |
| Bristol            | 507                 | 2.3%                            | 12                                              | 3                                         | 0                                           | 1%                                                       | 26%                                                          |
| Burrillville       | 460                 | 9.1%*                           | 42                                              | 10                                        | 8                                           | 4%                                                       | 43%                                                          |
| Central Falls      | 1,028               | 47.0%*                          | 483                                             | 42                                        | 14                                          | 5%                                                       | 12%                                                          |
| Charlestown        | 186                 | 38.0%***                        | 71                                              | 0                                         | 0                                           | 0%                                                       | 0%                                                           |
| Coventry           | 940                 | 25.7%**                         | 242                                             | 7                                         | 9                                           | 2%                                                       | 7%                                                           |
| Cranston           | 2,318               | 18.8%*                          | 436                                             | 0                                         | 22                                          | 1%                                                       | 5%                                                           |
| Cumberland         | 970                 | 8.9%*                           | 86                                              | 0                                         | 2                                           | <1%                                                      | 2%                                                           |
| East Greenwich     | 299                 | 10.8%**                         | 32                                              | 2                                         | 0                                           | 1%                                                       | 6%                                                           |
| East Providence    | 1,560               | 23.8%*                          | 371                                             | 7                                         | 14                                          | 1%                                                       | 6%                                                           |
| Exeter             | 166                 | NA                              | NA                                              | 0                                         | 0                                           | 0%                                                       | NA                                                           |
| Foster             | 113                 | 7.9%**                          | 9                                               | 0                                         | 0                                           | 0%                                                       | 0%                                                           |
| Glocester          | 247                 | 13.5%**                         | 33                                              | 0                                         | 1                                           | <1%                                                      | 3%                                                           |
| Hopkinton          | 258                 | 14.8%***                        | 38                                              | 0                                         | 0                                           | 0%                                                       | 0%                                                           |
| Jamestown          | 85                  | NA                              | NA                                              | 0                                         | 0                                           | 0%                                                       | NA                                                           |
| Johnston           | 816                 | 13.0%*                          | 106                                             | 9                                         | 7                                           | 2%                                                       | 15%                                                          |
| Lincoln            | 587                 | 17.3%*                          | 102                                             | 0                                         | 1                                           | <1%                                                      | 1%                                                           |
| Little Compton     | 68                  | 26.7%***                        | 18                                              | 1                                         | 0                                           | 1%                                                       | 6%                                                           |
| Middletown         | 502                 | 14.8%*                          | 74                                              | 4                                         | 7                                           | 2%                                                       | 15%                                                          |
| Narragansett       | 271                 | 9.8%**                          | 27                                              | 0                                         | 0                                           | 0%                                                       | 0%                                                           |
| New Shoreham       | 21                  | 10.0%***                        | 2                                               | 0                                         | 0                                           | 0%                                                       | 0%                                                           |
| Newport            | 820                 | 21.2%*                          | 174                                             | 15                                        | 32                                          | 6%                                                       | 27%                                                          |
| North Kingstown    | 728                 | 21.6%**                         | 157                                             | 0                                         | 0                                           | 0%                                                       | 0%                                                           |
| North Providence   | 851                 | 14.9%*                          | 127                                             | 10                                        | 10                                          | 2%                                                       | 16%                                                          |
| North Smithfield   | 290                 | 3.9%*                           | 11                                              | 0                                         | 0                                           | 0%                                                       | 0%                                                           |
| Pawtucket          | 2,959               | 35.5%*                          | 1,050                                           | 18                                        | 30                                          | 2%                                                       | 5%                                                           |
| Portsmouth         | 429                 | 1.6%                            | 7                                               | 0                                         | 0                                           | 0%                                                       | 0%                                                           |
| Providence         | 7,609               | 40.3%*                          | 3,066                                           | 165                                       | 36                                          | 3%                                                       | 7%                                                           |
| Richmond           | 235                 | 10.6%***                        | 25                                              | 0                                         | 0                                           | 0%                                                       | 0%                                                           |
| Scituate           | 193                 | 11.0%***                        | 21                                              | 0                                         | 0                                           | 0%                                                       | 0%                                                           |
| Smithfield         | 402                 | NA                              | NA                                              | 3                                         | 0                                           | 1%                                                       | NA                                                           |
| South Kingstown    | 640                 | 14.5%**                         | 93                                              | 0                                         | 0                                           | 0%                                                       | 0%                                                           |
| Tiverton           | 398                 | 10.9%*                          | 43                                              | 3                                         | 0                                           | 1%                                                       | 7%                                                           |
| Warren             | 296                 | 13.7%**                         | 41                                              | 6                                         | 1                                           | 2%                                                       | 17%                                                          |
| Warwick            | 2,322               | 8.6%                            | 200                                             | 25                                        | 23                                          | 2%                                                       | 24%                                                          |
| West Greenwich     | 178                 | NA                              | NA                                              | 3                                         | 1                                           | 2%                                                       | NA                                                           |
| West Warwick       | 1,044               | 25.1%**                         | 262                                             | 23                                        | 20                                          | 4%                                                       | 16%                                                          |
| Westerly           | 726                 | 14.1%**                         | 102                                             | 0                                         | 0                                           | 0%                                                       | 0%                                                           |
| Woonsocket         | 1,900               | 47.6%*                          | 904                                             | 0                                         | 10                                          | 1%                                                       | 1%                                                           |
| Four Core Cities   | 13,496              | 40.8%                           | 5,506                                           | 225                                       | 90                                          | 2%                                                       | 6%                                                           |
| Remainder of State | 20,292              | 14.5%                           | 2,942                                           | 132                                       | 159                                         | 1%                                                       | 10%                                                          |
| Rhode Island       | 33,788              | 24.3%                           | 8,210                                           | 357                                       | 249                                         | 2%                                                       | 7%                                                           |

## Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Rhode Island Early Head Start Programs, children enrolled as of October 2016. Children enrolled are listed by residence of child, not location of the Head Start program.

The estimated number of children under age three in each community is from Census 2010, Summary File 1. Estimated eligible children is the number of children ages three and four according to Census 2010 multiplied by the % of children under age six living in families with incomes below the federal poverty level (FPL) according to the Population Reference Bureau's (PRB) analysis of 2011-2015 American Community Survey data. Estimated eligible children for the four core cities, remainder of state, and Rhode Island is calculated using PRB estimates for those groupings and is not a sum of estimates by community.

The American Community Survey is a sample survey, and therefore the number and percentage of children living in poverty are estimates. The reliability of these estimates varies by community.

\*The Margin of Error around the percentage is greater than 5 but less than 10 percentage points.

\*\*The Margin of Error around the percentage is greater than 10 but less than 15 percentage points.

\*\*\*The Margin of Error around the percentage is greater than or equal to 15 percentage points.

NA: American Community Survey estimate of % of children under age six in poverty is not available for this community.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

## References

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- <sup>2</sup> *Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007*, § 42 U.S.C. 9801, § 645 (2007).
- <sup>3</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2017). Annual update of the HHS poverty guidelines. *Federal Register*, 82(19), 8831-8832.

(continued on page 185)

# Licensed Capacity of Early Learning Programs

## DEFINITION

*Licensed capacity of early learning programs* is the number of child care and early learning programs and slots licensed by the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families for children under age six. Licensed centers include child care programs, preschools, nursery schools, and center-based Head Start and Early Head Start programs.

## SIGNIFICANCE

High-quality child care and early learning programs for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers can have long-lasting positive effects on how children learn and develop.<sup>1</sup>

Early and ongoing enrollment in child care and early learning programs is common in the United States. Across the U.S., 42% of infants under the age of one and 73% of preschoolers between ages three and five regularly participate in a non-parental early care and education arrangement. Participation in early care and education varies by family income, with 63% of children ages birth to five living in households with incomes above poverty enrolled in child care or early learning programs, compared with 49% of those below poverty. Enrollment in center-based programs increases as children get older, with 28% of infants under age one participating in a center-based program while 78% of preschoolers

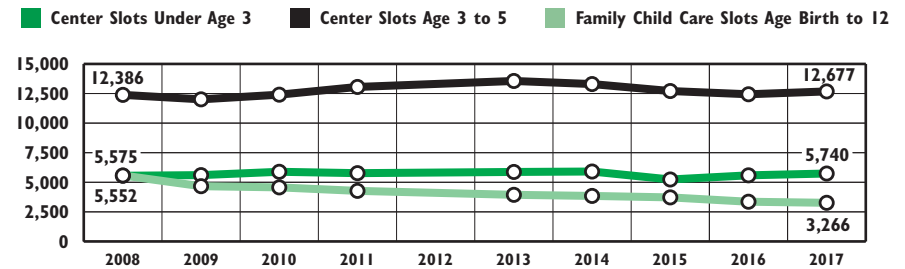
(children ages three to five) are enrolled in a center. Children with disabilities can have difficulty accessing child care and early learning programs despite a federal law requiring that community-based child care and preschool settings include children with disabilities.<sup>2</sup>

Access to stable, affordable, quality child care is a basic need for many working families and is critical for Rhode Island's economy. When parents have difficulty finding and keeping child care, they are more likely to be absent from work and to leave their jobs.<sup>3</sup> Between 2011 and 2015, 73% of Rhode Island children under age six had all parents in the workforce, higher than the U.S. rate of 65%.<sup>4</sup>

The availability of high-quality child care and early learning programs depends on the stability of a skilled teaching workforce. However, there are systemic workforce challenges including high turnover and low compensation levels that do not reward education or training of staff. Early care and education teachers are among the lowest-paid U.S. workers, with almost half relying on public income supports to make ends meet (e.g., the Earned Income Tax Credit, Medicaid, TANF, and SNAP).<sup>5</sup>

The availability of well-designed and maintained buildings that meet the needs of young children is also essential to the supply of quality early learning programs.<sup>6</sup>

## Early Learning Program Capacity, Rhode Island, 2008-2017



Source: Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, slots in licensed child care centers and family child care homes, 2008-2015. Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, number of licensed child care center slots and number of licensed family child care homes and slots, from RI Early Care and Education Data System (ECEDS), 2016-2017. Starting with the 2013 Factbook, data are collected as of January, instead of December.

- ◆ In January 2017, there were 153 more slots for infants and toddlers (children under age three) and 240 more slots for preschoolers (children ages three to five) in licensed centers than in 2016.<sup>7</sup>
- ◆ In January 2017, there were 91 fewer slots in licensed family child care homes than in the previous year. The number of family child care slots is down 41% since 2008.<sup>8</sup>
- ◆ The majority of licensed child care programs in Rhode Island accept children participating in the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). Seventy-two percent of licensed centers and 83% of licensed family child care homes accept CCAP certificates, which cover all or part of the cost of child care for low-income working families.<sup>9</sup>
- ◆ In addition to licensed programs operated by community-based agencies, businesses, and family child care providers, there are 52 traditional public schools in Rhode Island, 1 public charter school (Highlander), and 1 state-operated school (The RI School for the Deaf) that have preschool classrooms.<sup>10</sup>

## Quality Child Care for Infants and Toddlers

- ◆ Infants and toddlers benefit from low child-to-provider ratios and small group sizes where they can form nurturing, responsive, and continuous relationships with adults.<sup>11</sup>

# Licensed Capacity of Early Learning Programs

Table 34.

Capacity of Licensed Early Learning Programs, Rhode Island, January 2017

| CITY/TOWN          | # OF LICENSED CENTERS | # OF CENTER SLOTS FOR CHILDREN <AGE 3 | # OF CENTER SLOTS FOR CHILDREN AGES 3-5 | # OF LICENSED FAMILY CHILD CARE HOMES | # OF LICENSED FAMILY CHILD CARE HOME SLOTS* | TOTAL LICENSED EARLY LEARNING PROGRAM SLOTS |
|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Barrington         | 8                     | 130                                   | 306                                     | 4                                     | 26                                          | 462                                         |
| Bristol            | 5                     | 59                                    | 113                                     | 4                                     | 26                                          | 198                                         |
| Burrillville       | 3                     | 19                                    | 87                                      | 2                                     | 14                                          | 120                                         |
| Central Falls      | 4                     | 96                                    | 202                                     | 17                                    | 109                                         | 407                                         |
| Charlestown        | 5                     | 14                                    | 110                                     | 2                                     | 14                                          | 138                                         |
| Coventry           | 7                     | 179                                   | 201                                     | 5                                     | 35                                          | 415                                         |
| Cranston           | 31                    | 471                                   | 1,126                                   | 48                                    | 324                                         | 1,921                                       |
| Cumberland         | 7                     | 112                                   | 332                                     | 9                                     | 67                                          | 511                                         |
| East Greenwich     | 12                    | 344                                   | 670                                     | 0                                     | 0                                           | 1,014                                       |
| East Providence    | 16                    | 156                                   | 520                                     | 5                                     | 34                                          | 710                                         |
| Exeter             | 2                     | 34                                    | 38                                      | 1                                     | 8                                           | 80                                          |
| Foster             | 1                     | 19                                    | 18                                      | 0                                     | 0                                           | 37                                          |
| Glocester          | 3                     | 55                                    | 82                                      | 1                                     | 11                                          | 148                                         |
| Hopkinton          | 3                     | 12                                    | 60                                      | 1                                     | 8                                           | 80                                          |
| Jamestown          | 1                     | 30                                    | 34                                      | 1                                     | 8                                           | 72                                          |
| Johnston           | 19                    | 360                                   | 448                                     | 9                                     | 62                                          | 870                                         |
| Lincoln            | 5                     | 127                                   | 228                                     | 2                                     | 12                                          | 367                                         |
| Little Compton     | 1                     | 0                                     | 20                                      | 0                                     | 0                                           | 20                                          |
| Middletown         | 9                     | 144                                   | 403                                     | 1                                     | 6                                           | 553                                         |
| Narragansett       | 2                     | 12                                    | 20                                      | 0                                     | 0                                           | 32                                          |
| New Shoreham       | 1                     | 13                                    | 26                                      | 0                                     | 0                                           | 39                                          |
| Newport            | 4                     | 64                                    | 183                                     | 2                                     | 20                                          | 267                                         |
| North Kingstown    | 7                     | 107                                   | 307                                     | 2                                     | 11                                          | 425                                         |
| North Providence   | 11                    | 142                                   | 256                                     | 12                                    | 76                                          | 474                                         |
| North Smithfield   | 1                     | 77                                    | 91                                      | 4                                     | 36                                          | 204                                         |
| Pawtucket          | 18                    | 304                                   | 823                                     | 34                                    | 218                                         | 1,345                                       |
| Portsmouth         | 5                     | 90                                    | 114                                     | 1                                     | 6                                           | 210                                         |
| Providence         | 50                    | 757                                   | 2,048                                   | 286                                   | 1,871                                       | 4,676                                       |
| Richmond           | 0                     | 0                                     | 0                                       | 3                                     | 28                                          | 28                                          |
| Scituate           | 1                     | 11                                    | 36                                      | 4                                     | 30                                          | 77                                          |
| Smithfield         | 9                     | 303                                   | 519                                     | 0                                     | 0                                           | 822                                         |
| South Kingstown    | 13                    | 233                                   | 425                                     | 7                                     | 54                                          | 712                                         |
| Tiverton           | 3                     | 24                                    | 113                                     | 1                                     | 8                                           | 145                                         |
| Warren             | 5                     | 80                                    | 192                                     | 0                                     | 0                                           | 272                                         |
| Warwick            | 26                    | 775                                   | 1,301                                   | 9                                     | 66                                          | 2,142                                       |
| West Greenwich     | 2                     | 6                                     | 48                                      | 0                                     | 0                                           | 54                                          |
| West Warwick       | 5                     | 169                                   | 318                                     | 2                                     | 14                                          | 501                                         |
| Westerly           | 7                     | 88                                    | 298                                     | 2                                     | 12                                          | 398                                         |
| Woonsocket         | 9                     | 124                                   | 561                                     | 7                                     | 52                                          | 737                                         |
| Four Core Cities   | 81                    | 1,281                                 | 3,634                                   | 344                                   | 2,250                                       | 7,165                                       |
| Remainder of State | 240                   | 4,459                                 | 9,043                                   | 144                                   | 1,016                                       | 14,518                                      |
| Rhode Island       | 321                   | 5,740                                 | 12,677                                  | 488                                   | 3,266                                       | 21,683                                      |

## Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, number of licensed child care center slots and programs for children under age six and number of licensed family child care homes and slots, from RI Early Care and Education Data System (ECEDS), January 2017. Only full-day and morning slots are counted for center-based care.

Licensed centers include child care programs, preschools, nursery schools, and center-based Head Start and Early Head Start programs.

\*Family child care slots are for children ages birth to 12 years old.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

## References

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(continued on page 185)

# Children Receiving Child Care Subsidies

## DEFINITION

*Children receiving child care subsidies* is the number of children receiving child care that is either fully or partially paid for with a child care subsidy through the Rhode Island Department of Human Services' Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). Child care subsidies can be used for care in a child care center, family child care home, or by a relative or an in-home caregiver.

## SIGNIFICANCE

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. State child care subsidy programs help low-income, working families access child care.<sup>1</sup>

In Rhode Island, the average cost of full-time child care for an infant in a child care center consumes 50% of the median single-parent income and is more than the average tuition and fees at public colleges. The average annual cost of child care for two children (an infant and a preschooler) in Rhode Island is more than twice the state's median annual rent and is 11% higher than the average annualized mortgage.<sup>2</sup> Using the federal affordability guideline that families should spend no more than 7% of their income on child care, a Rhode Island family would need to earn at least

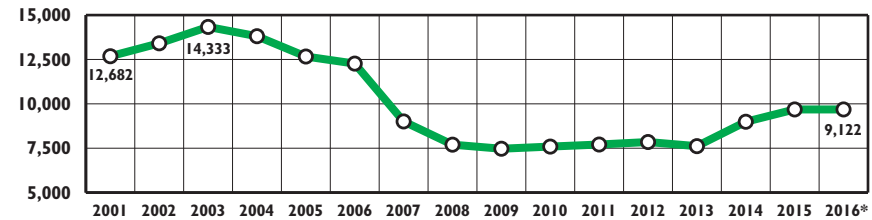
\$145,314 annually to afford the average yearly cost for a three-year-old at a licensed center (\$10,172).<sup>3,4</sup>

Child care subsidies increase the likelihood that low-income parents are able to work, are employed full-time, and maintain employment over longer periods of time. Parental employment improves family economic security and improves social and emotional well-being of children.<sup>5</sup>

Subsidies help low-income families access higher-quality child care programs that support children's development and learning. Low provider reimbursement rates restrict access to high-quality child care. Rates set below the 75th percentile of the market do not allow for the provision of high-quality care and may violate the federal law's provision that families receiving child care subsidies have equal access to child care options. Rhode Island is one of only 12 states that do not have a tiered child care rate system with higher payments going to higher quality child care programs to incentivize and support quality.<sup>6,7,8</sup>

As of July 2016, 11% of children participating in the Rhode Island Child Care Assistance Program ages birth through 12 were enrolled in a program with a high-quality BrightStars rating (four or five stars). Preschool-age children were more likely to be enrolled in a high-quality program (14%) than infants and toddlers (9%).<sup>9</sup>

### Child Care Subsidies, Rhode Island, 2001-2016



Source: Rhode Island Department of Human Services, InRhodes Database, December 2001–December 2015, September 2016. \*CCAP data for December 2016 were not available as of March 2017.

◆ In September 2016, there were 9,122 child care subsidies in Rhode Island, down 6% from 9,684 in December 2015 and down 36% from the 2003 peak. In September 2016, 77% of child care subsidies were for a licensed child care center, 22% were for a licensed family child care home or group family child care home, and 1% were for a non-licensed relative, friend, or neighbor.<sup>10</sup>

◆ Rhode Island families with incomes under 180% FPL (\$36,756 for a family of three) who work a minimum of 20 hours per week are eligible to receive CCAP. Families may continue to participate until their income reaches 225% FPL (\$45,945 for a family of three) as part of a graduated phase-out pilot set to expire on September 30, 2017 unless it is extended or made permanent. Families in Rhode Island Works may also be eligible for CCAP to support education and employment activities.<sup>11,12,13</sup>

◆ In September 2016, 84% of all child care subsidies in Rhode Island were used by low-income working families not receiving cash assistance and 7% were used by families enrolled in the Rhode Island Works Program. Another 9% of child care subsidies were used for children in the care of the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families.<sup>14</sup>

### Average Annual Cost for Full-Time Child Care, Rhode Island, 2015

| PROGRAM TYPE                                     | COST PER CHILD |
|--------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| Child Care Center (infant care)                  | \$12,091       |
| Child Care Center (preschool care)               | \$10,172       |
| Family Child Care Home (preschool care)          | \$8,655        |
| School-Age Center-Based Program (child age 6-12) | \$7,775        |

Source: Rhode Island KIDS COUNT analysis of average weekly rates from Bodah, M. M. (2015). *Statewide survey of childcare rates in Rhode Island*. Kingston, RI: University of Rhode Island.

# Children Receiving Child Care Subsidies

Table 35.

Child Care Subsidies, Rhode Island, September 2016

| CITY/TOWN          | SUBSIDY USE BY CHILD RESIDENCE |          |           |                            | SUBSIDY USE BY PROGRAM LOCATION |                   |                |                            |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|----------|-----------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------------------|
|                    | UNDER AGE 3                    | AGES 3-5 | AGES 6-12 | TOTAL CHILD CARE SUBSIDIES | CENTER                          | FAMILY CHILD CARE | LICENSE EXEMPT | TOTAL CHILD CARE SUBSIDIES |
| Barrington         | 3                              | 7        | 8         | 18                         | 36                              | 0                 | 0              | 36                         |
| Bristol            | 13                             | 15       | 16        | 44                         | 22                              | 2                 | 0              | 24                         |
| Burrillville       | 7                              | 13       | 12        | 32                         | 31                              | 1                 | 0              | 32                         |
| Central Falls      | 108                            | 140      | 185       | 433                        | 306                             | 94                | 6              | 406                        |
| Charlestown        | 5                              | 4        | 0         | 9                          | 6                               | 1                 | 0              | 7                          |
| Coventry           | 23                             | 47       | 44        | 114                        | 145                             | 2                 | 0              | 147                        |
| Cranston           | 142                            | 209      | 199       | 550                        | 419                             | 197               | 2              | 618                        |
| Cumberland         | 21                             | 36       | 43        | 100                        | 108                             | 6                 | 3              | 117                        |
| East Greenwich     | 8                              | 9        | 10        | 27                         | 73                              | 0                 | 0              | 73                         |
| East Providence    | 74                             | 118      | 145       | 337                        | 352                             | 10                | 0              | 362                        |
| Exeter             | 6                              | 7        | 5         | 18                         | 14                              | 4                 | 0              | 18                         |
| Foster             | 1                              | 7        | 7         | 15                         | 7                               | 0                 | 0              | 7                          |
| Glocester          | 4                              | 8        | 1         | 13                         | 37                              | 2                 | 0              | 39                         |
| Hopkinton          | 1                              | 5        | 0         | 6                          | 1                               | 12                | 0              | 13                         |
| Jamestown          | 1                              | 1        | 0         | 2                          | 7                               | 0                 | 0              | 7                          |
| Johnston           | 38                             | 60       | 46        | 144                        | 338                             | 28                | 2              | 368                        |
| Lincoln            | 24                             | 35       | 52        | 111                        | 170                             | 8                 | 0              | 178                        |
| Little Compton     | 1                              | 0        | 0         | 1                          | 0                               | 0                 | 0              | 0                          |
| Middletown         | 19                             | 28       | 20        | 67                         | 66                              | 0                 | 0              | 66                         |
| Narragansett       | 10                             | 15       | 13        | 38                         | 12                              | 0                 | 0              | 12                         |
| New Shoreham       | 0                              | 0        | 0         | 0                          | 0                               | 0                 | 0              | 0                          |
| Newport            | 69                             | 93       | 60        | 222                        | 204                             | 12                | 3              | 219                        |
| North Kingstown    | 44                             | 59       | 37        | 140                        | 176                             | 1                 | 0              | 177                        |
| North Providence   | 54                             | 73       | 75        | 202                        | 165                             | 14                | 1              | 180                        |
| North Smithfield   | 11                             | 14       | 15        | 40                         | 55                              | 0                 | 0              | 55                         |
| Pawtucket          | 217                            | 360      | 410       | 987                        | 884                             | 111               | 7              | 1,002                      |
| Portsmouth         | 7                              | 10       | 2         | 19                         | 31                              | 0                 | 0              | 31                         |
| Providence         | 836                            | 1,055    | 1,277     | 3,168                      | 1,642                           | 1,430             | 30             | 3,102                      |
| Richmond           | 3                              | 1        | 2         | 6                          | 5                               | 0                 | 0              | 5                          |
| Scituate           | 5                              | 5        | 7         | 17                         | 2                               | 0                 | 0              | 2                          |
| Smithfield         | 4                              | 16       | 21        | 41                         | 113                             | 0                 | 0              | 113                        |
| South Kingstown    | 18                             | 22       | 17        | 57                         | 70                              | 11                | 1              | 82                         |
| Tiverton           | 9                              | 13       | 6         | 28                         | 14                              | 3                 | 0              | 17                         |
| Warren             | 16                             | 13       | 16        | 45                         | 71                              | 0                 | 0              | 71                         |
| Warwick            | 113                            | 141      | 120       | 374                        | 573                             | 8                 | 1              | 582                        |
| West Greenwich     | 2                              | 4        | 3         | 9                          | 7                               | 0                 | 2              | 9                          |
| West Warwick       | 68                             | 127      | 106       | 301                        | 253                             | 4                 | 0              | 257                        |
| Westerly           | 22                             | 44       | 38        | 104                        | 112                             | 0                 | 3              | 115                        |
| Woonsocket         | 130                            | 202      | 274       | 606                        | 487                             | 44                | 8              | 539                        |
| DCYF               | NA                             | NA       | NA        | 850                        | NA                              | NA                | NA             | NA                         |
| Out-Of-State       | 0                              | 0        | 0         | 0                          | 33                              | 1                 | 0              | 34                         |
| Four Core Cities   | 1,291                          | 1,757    | 2,146     | 5,194                      | 3,319                           | 1,679             | 51             | 5,049                      |
| Remainder of State | 846                            | 1,259    | 1,146     | 3,251                      | 3,695                           | 326               | 18             | 4,039                      |
| Rhode Island       | 2,137                          | 3,016    | 3,292     | 8,445*                     | 7,047                           | 2,006             | 69             | 9,122*                     |

### Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Rhode Island Department of Human Services, InRhodes Database, September 2016. Data for 2016 should not be compared with previous years since the month differs. CCAP data for December 2016 were not available as of March 2017.

DCYF is the number of children in the care of the Department of Children, Youth and Families who are receiving child care subsidies.

Out-of-State is subsidies used by Rhode Island resident children who attend child care located outside of Rhode Island; they are included in the state count.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

NA=Not applicable or available.

Subsidy data by age of child are reported by the child's residence. Subsidy use by program type is reported by location of the program.

\*Total subsidy use numbers by child residence and total subsidy use numbers by program location do not match because children may be enrolled in more than one program.

The average annual cost for full-time child care was determined by multiplying the average weekly tuition rate by 52 weeks (for infants and preschoolers). For school-age children, the annual cost was determined by multiplying the average weekly tuition for before and after school care by 39 weeks and adding three weeks of average school vacation tuition and 10 weeks of average summer vacation tuition.

### References

- <sup>1,8</sup> Schulman, K. & Blank, H. (2016). *Red light green light: State child care assistance policies 2016*. Washington, DC: National Women's Law Center.
- <sup>2</sup> *Parents and the high price of child care: 2016 report*. (2016). Arlington, VA: Child Care Aware of America.
- <sup>3,7</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (2016). Child Care and Development Fund Program: Final rule. *Federal Register*, 81(190), 67438-67595.

(continued on page 186)

# Early Learning Programs Participating in BrightStars

## DEFINITION

Early learning programs participating in BrightStars is the percentage of licensed early learning centers, family child care homes, and public schools with preschool classrooms in Rhode Island that are participating in BrightStars, Rhode Island's Quality Rating and Improvement System for child care and early learning programs.

## SIGNIFICANCE

Research on early care and education reveals a strong relationship between program quality and children's developing skills and well-being. Children who attend high-quality programs score higher on tests of language and cognitive skills and demonstrate stronger social and emotional development than children who attend low-quality programs.<sup>1,2,3</sup> Programs across the U.S. and in Rhode Island vary markedly in quality and can range from rich learning experiences to mediocre, custodial care.<sup>4,5,6</sup>

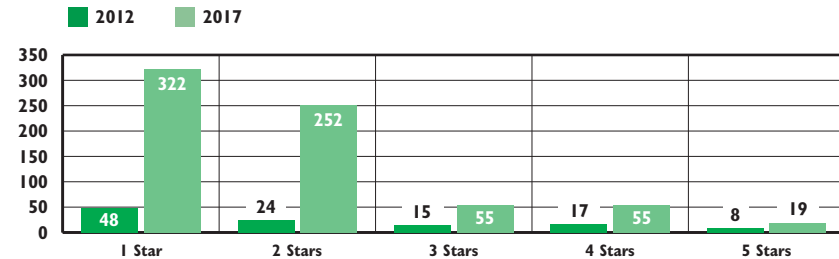
High-quality early care and education is characterized by smaller numbers of children in a classroom or group, fewer children per adult, skilled staff, a language-rich environment with stimulating curricula, warm, nurturing and dependable relationships between staff and children, and a safe environment.<sup>7</sup> The development and retention of a highly qualified and

appropriately compensated workforce for early childhood programs is critical to improve program quality.<sup>8</sup>

Almost all states use Quality Rating and Improvement Systems (QRIS) to document and improve the quality of early learning and child care programs. QRIS measure a variety of program quality indicators (such as staff qualifications, learning environment, and staff-child interactions) and then create a composite index rating. QRIS ratings are shared with parents and they are often connected to financial incentives and supports, such as enhanced reimbursement rates or quality bonuses for higher quality child care programs.<sup>9,10</sup> Studies have shown that, over time, state QRIS can improve the quality of care available.<sup>11</sup>

Launched in 2009, BrightStars conducts program quality assessments using research based standards for licensed centers (including child care, preschool and Head Start), family child care homes, and public schools. Programs participating in BrightStars receive a star rating and develop a quality improvement plan across six quality domains.<sup>12</sup> As of October 2014, all programs serving children participating in the Child Care Assistance Program are required to have a BrightStars rating.<sup>13</sup>

### BrightStars Quality Ratings for Early Learning Centers, Family Child Care Programs, and Public Schools, Rhode Island, 2012 and 2017

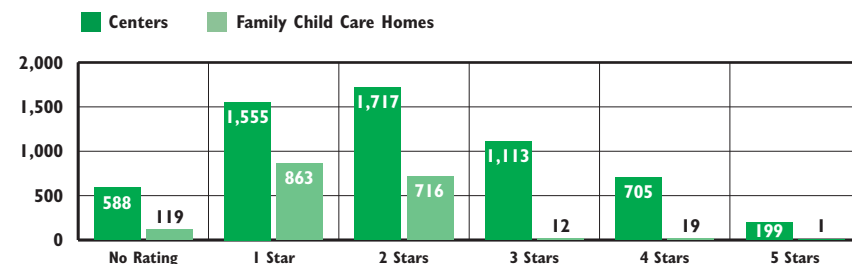


Source: Rhode Island Association for the Education of Young Children, January 2012 and the RI Early Care and Education Data System (ECEDS), January 2017.

◆ As of January 2017, there were 703 early learning programs with a BrightStars quality rating; 257 licensed child care centers, 411 licensed family child care homes, and 35 public schools with preschool classrooms.<sup>14</sup> Fifty-eight (18%) licensed early learning centers, seven (1%) licensed family child care homes, and nine (17%) public schools had met the benchmarks for a high-quality rating of four or five stars.<sup>15</sup>

◆ A 2016 evaluation of BrightStars indicates that star levels effectively differentiate quality and five of the ten standards are linked to improved child outcomes, specifically improved social competence and math skills. The study also found that 70% of child care center and preschool directors had a positive or extremely positive impression of BrightStars.<sup>16</sup>

### Child Care Assistance Program Enrollment for Children Ages Birth through 5 by BrightStars Program Ratings, July 2016



Source: Rhode Island Department of Human Services, InRhodes Database, July 2016.

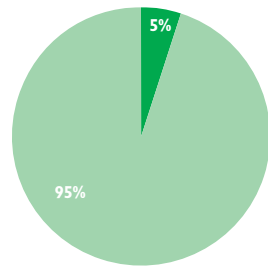
# Early Learning Programs Participating in BrightStars

Table 36.

Licensed Child Care Centers and Preschools Participating in the BrightStars Quality Rating and Improvement System, Rhode Island, January 2017

## Early Learning Centers with Preschool Classrooms with CECE Approval from the Rhode Island Department of Education, 2017

5% ■ One or More Approved Preschool Classrooms (15)  
 95% ■ No Approved Preschool Classrooms (306)



n=321

Source: Rhode Island Early Care and Education Data System, January 2017.

◆ The Rhode Island Department of Education awards Comprehensive Early Childhood Education (CECE) approval to preschool classrooms that meet certain quality benchmarks. As of January 2017, there were 30 preschool classrooms in 15 licensed centers (5% of all licensed centers) and three preschool classrooms in one public school (2% of all public schools serving preschoolers) that met approval standards.<sup>17</sup>

◆ Preschool-age children enrolled in the Child Care Assistance Program are more likely to be enrolled in a high-quality program (16%) than infants and toddlers (13%).<sup>18</sup>

| CITY/TOWN          | LICENSED PROGRAMS | DCYF PROBATION | NO RATING | 1 STAR | 2 STARS | 3 STARS | 4 STARS | 5 STARS | % IN BRIGHTSTARS | % WITH HIGH-QUALITY RATING |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------------|----------------------------|
| Barrington         | 8                 | 0              | 4         | 2      | 0       | 0       | 2       | 0       | 50%              | 25%                        |
| Bristol            | 5                 | 0              | 1         | 3      | 0       | 1       | 0       | 0       | 80%              | 0%                         |
| Burrillville       | 3                 | 0              | 0         | 2      | 0       | 0       | 1       | 0       | 100%             | 33%                        |
| Central Falls      | 4                 | 0              | 1         | 0      | 0       | 2       | 1       | 0       | 75%              | 25%                        |
| Charlestown        | 5                 | 0              | 1         | 1      | 0       | 1       | 0       | 2       | 80%              | 40%                        |
| Coventry           | 7                 | 3              | 0         | 3      | 1       | 2       | 0       | 1       | 100%             | 14%                        |
| Cranston           | 31                | 7              | 10        | 10     | 7       | 3       | 1       | 0       | 68%              | 3%                         |
| Cumberland         | 7                 | 0              | 2         | 1      | 1       | 2       | 1       | 0       | 71%              | 14%                        |
| East Greenwich     | 12                | 1              | 1         | 2      | 4       | 3       | 2       | 0       | 92%              | 17%                        |
| East Providence    | 16                | 0              | 4         | 2      | 4       | 4       | 2       | 0       | 75%              | 13%                        |
| Exeter             | 2                 | 0              | 0         | 0      | 1       | 0       | 1       | 0       | 100%             | 50%                        |
| Foster             | 1                 | 0              | 0         | 0      | 1       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 100%             | 0%                         |
| Glocester          | 3                 | 1              | 0         | 1      | 1       | 0       | 1       | 0       | 100%             | 33%                        |
| Hopkinton          | 3                 | 0              | 0         | 2      | 1       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 100%             | 0%                         |
| Jamestown          | 1                 | 0              | 0         | 0      | 1       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 100%             | 0%                         |
| Johnston           | 19                | 0              | 2         | 4      | 7       | 3       | 3       | 0       | 89%              | 16%                        |
| Lincoln            | 5                 | 0              | 0         | 2      | 1       | 1       | 0       | 1       | 100%             | 20%                        |
| Little Compton     | 1                 | 0              | 1         | 0      | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0%               | 0%                         |
| Middletown         | 9                 | 0              | 3         | 2      | 1       | 1       | 2       | 0       | 67%              | 22%                        |
| Narragansett       | 2                 | 0              | 1         | 1      | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 50%              | 0%                         |
| New Shoreham       | 1                 | 0              | 0         | 0      | 0       | 0       | 1       | 0       | 100%             | 100%                       |
| Newport            | 4                 | 0              | 0         | 0      | 2       | 0       | 2       | 0       | 100%             | 50%                        |
| North Kingstown    | 7                 | 1              | 2         | 0      | 2       | 2       | 0       | 1       | 71%              | 14%                        |
| North Providence   | 11                | 2              | 3         | 5      | 1       | 1       | 1       | 0       | 73%              | 9%                         |
| North Smithfield   | 1                 | 1              | 0         | 0      | 1       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 100%             | 0%                         |
| Pawtucket          | 18                | 2              | 2         | 7      | 4       | 3       | 1       | 1       | 89%              | 11%                        |
| Portsmouth         | 5                 | 0              | 2         | 2      | 1       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 60%              | 0%                         |
| Providence         | 50                | 3              | 8         | 10     | 11      | 5       | 10      | 6       | 84%              | 32%                        |
| Richmond           | 0                 | NA             | NA        | NA     | NA      | NA      | NA      | NA      | NA               | NA                         |
| Scituate           | 1                 | 0              | 0         | 0      | 1       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 100%             | 0%                         |
| Smithfield         | 9                 | 0              | 2         | 4      | 1       | 1       | 1       | 0       | 78%              | 11%                        |
| South Kingstown    | 13                | 0              | 6         | 2      | 2       | 1       | 1       | 1       | 54%              | 15%                        |
| Tiverton           | 3                 | 1              | 1         | 0      | 1       | 1       | 0       | 0       | 67%              | 0%                         |
| Warren             | 5                 | 0              | 2         | 1      | 1       | 1       | 0       | 0       | 60%              | 0%                         |
| Warwick            | 26                | 1              | 3         | 4      | 14      | 2       | 1       | 2       | 88%              | 12%                        |
| West Greenwich     | 2                 | 0              | 0         | 0      | 2       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 100%             | 0%                         |
| West Warwick       | 5                 | 0              | 0         | 2      | 1       | 1       | 1       | 0       | 100%             | 20%                        |
| Westerly           | 7                 | 0              | 2         | 0      | 3       | 0       | 2       | 0       | 71%              | 29%                        |
| Woonsocket         | 9                 | 0              | 0         | 3      | 0       | 1       | 3       | 2       | 100%             | 56%                        |
| Four Core Cities   | 81                | 5              | 11        | 20     | 15      | 11      | 15      | 9       | 86%              | 30%                        |
| Remainder of State | 240               | 18             | 53        | 58     | 64      | 31      | 26      | 8       | 78%              | 14%                        |
| Rhode Island       | 321               | 23             | 64        | 78     | 79      | 42      | 41      | 17      | 80%              | 18%                        |

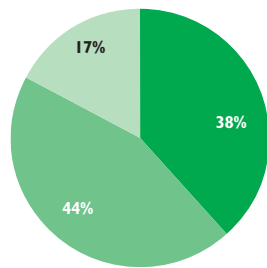
# Early Learning Programs Participating in BrightStars

Table 37.

Licensed Family Child Care Homes Participating in the BrightStars Quality Rating and Improvement System, Rhode Island, January 2017

## Licensed Family Child Care Programs by Language Spoken, Rhode Island, 2014

38% English Only  
 44% Spanish Only  
 17% Bilingual in English and Spanish



n=188

Source: Oldham, E. & Hawes, S. (2014). *Rhode Island early learning workforce study: Licensed centers and family child care homes*. Retrieved February 14, 2017, from <http://exceed.ri.gov>

◆ In 2014, 44% of family child care providers in Rhode Island reported speaking Spanish only, 38% English only, and 17% were bilingual in English and Spanish. More than two-thirds worked more than 40 hours per week and 84% reported earning less than \$40,000 annually.<sup>19</sup>

◆ Nationally, 24% of children receiving child care funded through federal subsidies are cared for in a family child care home. Family child care providers may be more affordable and more flexible with enrollment hours. They may also share the child's and family's home language or cultural background.<sup>20</sup>

| CITY/TOWN          | LICENSED PROGRAMS | DCYF PROBATION | NO RATING | 1 STAR | 2 STARS | 3 STARS | 4 STARS | 5 STARS | % IN BRIGHTSTARS | % WITH HIGH-QUALITY RATING |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------------|----------------------------|
| Barrington         | 4                 | 0              | 1         | 2      | 1       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 75%              | 0%                         |
| Bristol            | 4                 | 0              | 2         | 1      | 1       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 50%              | 0%                         |
| Burrillville       | 2                 | 0              | 1         | 1      | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 50%              | 0%                         |
| Central Falls      | 17                | 0              | 2         | 11     | 4       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 88%              | 0%                         |
| Charlestown        | 2                 | 0              | 1         | 1      | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 50%              | 0%                         |
| Coventry           | 5                 | 1              | 2         | 3      | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 60%              | 0%                         |
| Cranston           | 48                | 0              | 11        | 21     | 16      | 0       | 0       | 0       | 77%              | 0%                         |
| Cumberland         | 9                 | 0              | 6         | 2      | 1       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 33%              | 0%                         |
| East Greenwich     | 0                 | NA             | NA        | NA     | NA      | NA      | NA      | NA      | NA               | NA                         |
| East Providence    | 5                 | 0              | 2         | 3      | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 60%              | 0%                         |
| Exeter             | 1                 | 0              | 0         | 0      | 0       | 0       | 1       | 0       | 100%             | 100%                       |
| Foster             | 0                 | NA             | NA        | NA     | NA      | NA      | NA      | NA      | NA               | NA                         |
| Glocester          | 1                 | 0              | 0         | 1      | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 100%             | 0%                         |
| Hopkinton          | 1                 | 0              | 1         | 0      | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0%               | 0%                         |
| Jamestown          | 1                 | 0              | 1         | 0      | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0%               | 0%                         |
| Johnston           | 9                 | 0              | 1         | 5      | 3       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 89%              | 0%                         |
| Lincoln            | 2                 | 0              | 1         | 1      | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 50%              | 0%                         |
| Little Compton     | 0                 | NA             | NA        | NA     | NA      | NA      | NA      | NA      | NA               | NA                         |
| Middletown         | 1                 | 0              | 0         | 1      | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 100%             | 0%                         |
| Narragansett       | 0                 | NA             | NA        | NA     | NA      | NA      | NA      | NA      | NA               | NA                         |
| New Shoreham       | 0                 | NA             | NA        | NA     | NA      | NA      | NA      | NA      | NA               | NA                         |
| Newport            | 2                 | 0              | 1         | 0      | 1       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 50%              | 0%                         |
| North Kingstown    | 2                 | 0              | 0         | 2      | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 100%             | 0%                         |
| North Providence   | 12                | 0              | 8         | 4      | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 33%              | 0%                         |
| North Smithfield   | 4                 | 0              | 1         | 1      | 0       | 0       | 2       | 0       | 75%              | 50%                        |
| Pawtucket          | 34                | 0              | 3         | 17     | 12      | 2       | 0       | 0       | 91%              | 0%                         |
| Portsmouth         | 1                 | 0              | 1         | 0      | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0%               | 0%                         |
| Providence         | 286               | 8              | 17        | 148    | 115     | 2       | 3       | 1       | 94%              | 1%                         |
| Richmond           | 3                 | 0              | 3         | 0      | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0%               | 0%                         |
| Scituate           | 4                 | 0              | 2         | 0      | 2       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 50%              | 0%                         |
| Smithfield         | 0                 | NA             | NA        | NA     | NA      | NA      | NA      | NA      | NA               | NA                         |
| South Kingstown    | 7                 | 0              | 2         | 4      | 1       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 71%              | 0%                         |
| Tiverton           | 1                 | 0              | 0         | 1      | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 100%             | 0%                         |
| Warren             | 0                 | NA             | NA        | NA     | NA      | NA      | NA      | NA      | NA               | NA                         |
| Warwick            | 9                 | 0              | 6         | 2      | 1       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 33%              | 0%                         |
| West Greenwich     | 0                 | NA             | NA        | NA     | NA      | NA      | NA      | NA      | NA               | NA                         |
| West Warwick       | 2                 | 0              | 1         | 1      | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 50%              | 0%                         |
| Westerly           | 2                 | 0              | 0         | 2      | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 100%             | 0%                         |
| Woonsocket         | 7                 | 0              | 0         | 6      | 1       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 100%             | 0%                         |
| Four Core Cities   | 344               | 8              | 22        | 182    | 132     | 4       | 3       | 1       | 94%              | 1%                         |
| Remainder of State | 144               | 1              | 55        | 59     | 27      | 0       | 3       | 0       | 62%              | 2%                         |
| Rhode Island       | 488               | 9              | 77        | 241    | 159     | 4       | 6       | 1       | 84%              | 1%                         |

# Early Learning Programs Participating in BrightStars

Table 38.

**Public Schools with Preschool Classrooms Participating in the BrightStars Quality Rating and Improvement System, Rhode Island, January 2017**

| DISTRICT               | SCHOOLS WITH PRESCHOOL CLASSROOMS | NO RATING | 1 STAR | 2 STARS | 3 STARS | 4 STARS | 5 STARS | % IN BRIGHTSTARS | % WITH HIGH-QUALITY RATING |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------------------|----------------------------|
| Barrington             | 1                                 | 1         | 0      | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0%               | 0%                         |
| Bristol Warren         | 1                                 | 0         | 0      | 0       | 0       | 1       | 0       | 100%             | 100%                       |
| Burrillville           | 1                                 | 1         | 0      | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0%               | 0%                         |
| Central Falls          | 2                                 | 1         | 0      | 0       | 0       | 1       | 0       | 50%              | 50%                        |
| Chariho                | 1                                 | 0         | 0      | 0       | 0       | 1       | 0       | 100%             | 100%                       |
| Coventry               | 3                                 | 0         | 0      | 0       | 3       | 0       | 0       | 100%             | 0%                         |
| Cranston               | 5                                 | 0         | 0      | 3       | 2       | 0       | 0       | 100%             | 0%                         |
| Cumberland             | 1                                 | 1         | 0      | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0%               | 0%                         |
| East Greenwich         | 1                                 | 0         | 0      | 0       | 1       | 0       | 0       | 100%             | 0%                         |
| East Providence        | 3                                 | 2         | 0      | 1       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 33%              | 0%                         |
| Exeter-West Greenwich  | 1                                 | 0         | 0      | 0       | 0       | 1       | 0       | 100%             | 100%                       |
| Foster                 | 1                                 | 1         | 0      | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0%               | 0%                         |
| Glocester              | 1                                 | 1         | 0      | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0%               | 0%                         |
| Jamestown              | 1                                 | 1         | 0      | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0%               | 0%                         |
| Johnston               | 1                                 | 0         | 0      | 1       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 100%             | 0%                         |
| Lincoln                | 1                                 | 0         | 0      | 0       | 1       | 0       | 0       | 100%             | 0%                         |
| Little Compton         | 0                                 | NA        | NA     | NA      | NA      | NA      | NA      | NA               | NA                         |
| Middletown             | 1                                 | 1         | 0      | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0%               | 0%                         |
| Narragansett           | 1                                 | 1         | 0      | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0%               | 0%                         |
| New Shoreham           | 0                                 | NA        | NA     | NA      | NA      | NA      | NA      | NA               | NA                         |
| Newport                | 1                                 | 0         | 0      | 1       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 100%             | 0%                         |
| North Kingstown        | 1                                 | 0         | 0      | 0       | 0       | 1       | 0       | 100%             | 100%                       |
| North Providence       | 2                                 | 0         | 0      | 2       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 100%             | 0%                         |
| North Smithfield       | 1                                 | 1         | 0      | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0%               | 0%                         |
| Pawtucket              | 2                                 | 0         | 2      | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 100%             | 0%                         |
| Portsmouth             | 1                                 | 1         | 0      | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0%               | 0%                         |
| Providence             | 6                                 | 2         | 0      | 2       | 2       | 0       | 0       | 67%              | 0%                         |
| Scituate               | 1                                 | 1         | 0      | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0%               | 0%                         |
| Smithfield             | 1                                 | 0         | 0      | 0       | 0       | 1       | 0       | 100%             | 100%                       |
| South Kingstown        | 1                                 | 0         | 0      | 0       | 0       | 1       | 0       | NA               | NA                         |
| Tiverton               | 2                                 | 2         | 0      | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0%               | 0%                         |
| Warwick                | 2                                 | 1         | 1      | 0       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 50%              | 0%                         |
| West Warwick           | 2                                 | 0         | 0      | 2       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 100%             | 0%                         |
| Westerly               | 1                                 | 0         | 0      | 0       | 0       | 0       | 1       | 100%             | 100%                       |
| Woonsocket             | 1                                 | 0         | 0      | 1       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 100%             | 0%                         |
| Charter Schools        | 1                                 | 0         | 0      | 1       | 0       | 0       | 0       | 100%             | 0%                         |
| RI School for the Deaf | 1                                 | 0         | 0      | 0       | 0       | 1       | 0       | 100%             | 100%                       |
| Four Core Cities       | 11                                | 3         | 2      | 3       | 2       | 1       | 0       | 73%              | 9%                         |
| Remainder of State     | 43                                | 16        | 1      | 11      | 7       | 7       | 1       | 63%              | 19%                        |
| Rhode Island           | 54                                | 19        | 3      | 14      | 9       | 8       | 1       | 65%              | 17%                        |

## Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Data on the number of licensed early learning programs and family child care homes are from the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, January 2017. Data on public schools are from the Rhode Island Department of Education, January 2017. Data on BrightStars quality ratings are from the Rhode Island Association for the Education of Young Children, January 2017. Data matched through the RI Early Care and Education Data System (ECEDS).

High-quality rating means a BrightStars rating of four or five stars.

NA=Not applicable.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

## References

<sup>1</sup> Burchinal, M., Kainz, K., & Cai, Y. (2011). How well do our measures of quality predict child outcomes? In Zaslow, M., Martinez-Beck, L., Tout, K., & Halle, T. (Eds.), *Quality measurement in early childhood settings*. 11-31. Baltimore, MD: Paul H. Brookes Publishing Co.

<sup>2</sup> Demma, R. (2010). *Building ready states: A governor's guide to supporting a comprehensive, high-quality early childhood state system*. Washington, DC: National Governor's Association, NGA Center for Best Practices.

<sup>3</sup> Vandell, D. L., Belsky, J., Burchinal, M., Steinberg, L., & Vandergrift, N. (2010). Do effects of early child care extend to age 15 years? Results from the NICHD study of early child care and youth development. *Child Development, 81*(3), 737-756.

<sup>4</sup> Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University. (2007). *A science-based framework for early childhood policy: Using evidence to improve outcomes in learning, behavior, and health for vulnerable children*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University.

<sup>5</sup> Maxwell, K. L. & Kraus, S. (2010). *Rhode Island's 2009 child care center and preschool quality study*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina, FPG Child Development Institute.

(continued on page 186)

# Children Enrolled in Head Start

## DEFINITION

*Children enrolled in Head Start* is the percentage of eligible children enrolled in a Rhode Island Head Start preschool program.

## SIGNIFICANCE

Head Start is a federally-funded comprehensive early childhood program for the lowest income preschool children and their families. It is designed to address a wide variety of needs during the two years before kindergarten so that low-income children can begin school on a more equal footing with their economically advantaged peers.<sup>1</sup> Head Start programs deliver early education, medical and dental screenings and referrals, nutrition services, mental health services, family engagement activities, and social service referrals for the whole family.<sup>2</sup>

Family income is strongly correlated with children's cognitive, language, and literacy skills at school entry. Before kindergarten entry, children in the highest socio-economic group have cognitive test scores that are 60% higher than the average scores of children in the lowest socio-economic group. Children in families with incomes below the federal poverty threshold are typically 18 months behind their peers at age four.<sup>3</sup>

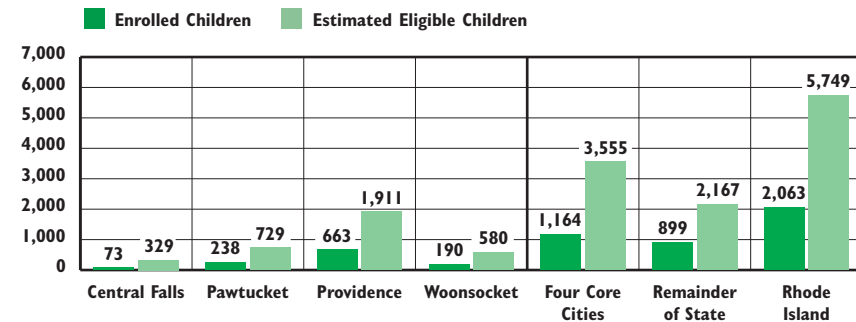
On average, Head Start centers are higher quality than many other early care and education programs available.<sup>4</sup>

Head Start also has been found to be more effective than many other early learning programs.<sup>5</sup> Children who participate in Head Start show improvements in language and literacy skills. However, those improvements may no longer be discernible at the end of third grade. Researchers suggest that early elementary “fade out” may be related to other low-income children who did not attend preschool “catching up” in the early grades or stagnation associated with attending low-quality elementary schools.<sup>6,7,8,9</sup>

Lasting impacts for children who were in Head Start have been found in reduced grade retention and special education placement and increased high school graduation and college enrollment rates. Head Start participation is also associated with reduced arrests, child mortality and childhood obesity.<sup>10</sup>

As of October 2016, there were 2,063 children enrolled in Head Start and 339 eligible children on the waiting list.<sup>11</sup> Rhode Island Head Start programs served significant numbers of children with high needs including 236 preschool children with developmental delays or disabilities (11% of all children enrolled), 32 children who were in foster care, and 56 children who were homeless. Sixteen percent of children enrolled in Rhode Island Head Start programs were also participating in the Child Care Assistance Program.<sup>12</sup>

## Access to Head Start for Children in Poverty, Rhode Island, 2016

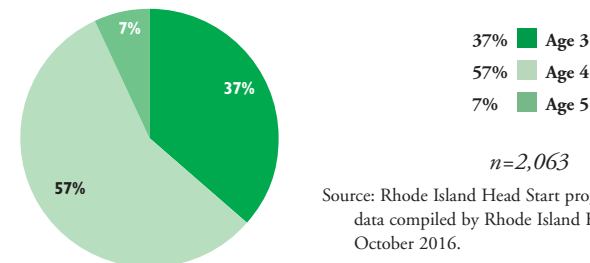


Source: Rhode Island Head Start program enrollment data compiled by Rhode Island KIDS COUNT, October 2016. Estimated eligible children is the number of children ages three and four according to Census 2010 multiplied by the % of children under age six living in families with incomes below the federal poverty line (FPL) according to the Population Reference Bureau's analysis of 2011-2015 American Community Survey data.

◆ **Head Start is not funded at a level to serve all eligible children and all Rhode Island Head Start programs maintain active waiting lists of eligible children. In October 2016, Rhode Island Head Start programs served 2,063 children, 36% of the estimated 5,749 income-eligible three- and four-year old children and 9% of all children ages three and four.**<sup>13,14</sup>

◆ **In the four core cities, 33% of the estimated eligible children were enrolled in Head Start, compared with 41% in the remainder of the state. The estimated percentage of eligible children enrolled in Head Start for each core city is: Central Falls – 22%, Pawtucket – 33%, Providence – 35%, and Woonsocket – 33%.**<sup>15,16</sup>

## Children Enrolled in Head Start by Age, Rhode Island, 2016



Source: Rhode Island Head Start program enrollment data compiled by Rhode Island KIDS COUNT, October 2016.

# Children Enrolled in Head Start

Table 39.

Children Enrolled in Head Start, Rhode Island, 2016

| CITY/TOWN          | ALL CHILDREN AGES 3 & 4 | % CHILDREN <AGE 6 IN POVERTY | ESTIMATED ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AGES 3 & 4 IN POVERTY | # OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN HEAD START | ESTIMATED % OF ALL CHILDREN ENROLLED IN HEAD START | ESTIMATED % OF ELIGIBLE CHILDREN ENROLLED IN HEAD START |
|--------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Barrington         | 369                     | 1.0%                         | 4                                                 | 4                                    | 1%                                                 | 108%                                                    |
| Bristol            | 401                     | 2.3%                         | 9                                                 | 30                                   | 7%                                                 | 325%                                                    |
| Burrillville       | 321                     | 9.1%*                        | 29                                                | 19                                   | 6%                                                 | 65%                                                     |
| Central Falls      | 699                     | 47.0%*                       | 329                                               | 73                                   | 10%                                                | 22%                                                     |
| Charlestown        | 153                     | 38.0%***                     | 58                                                | 5                                    | 3%                                                 | 9%                                                      |
| Coventry           | 734                     | 25.7%**                      | 189                                               | 54                                   | 7%                                                 | 29%                                                     |
| Cranston           | 1,684                   | 18.8%*                       | 317                                               | 182                                  | 11%                                                | 57%                                                     |
| Cumberland         | 810                     | 8.9%*                        | 72                                                | 4                                    | <1%                                                | 6%                                                      |
| East Greenwich     | 277                     | 10.8%**                      | 30                                                | 1                                    | <1%                                                | 3%                                                      |
| East Providence    | 982                     | 23.8%*                       | 234                                               | 47                                   | 5%                                                 | 20%                                                     |
| Exeter             | 105                     | NA                           | NA                                                | 1                                    | 1%                                                 | NA                                                      |
| Foster             | 99                      | 7.9%**                       | 8                                                 | 1                                    | 1%                                                 | 13%                                                     |
| Glocester          | 191                     | 13.5%**                      | 26                                                | 3                                    | 2%                                                 | 12%                                                     |
| Hopkinton          | 167                     | 14.8%***                     | 25                                                | 4                                    | 2%                                                 | 16%                                                     |
| Jamestown          | 102                     | NA                           | NA                                                | 0                                    | 0%                                                 | NA                                                      |
| Johnston           | 528                     | 13.0%*                       | 69                                                | 40                                   | 8%                                                 | 58%                                                     |
| Lincoln            | 412                     | 17.3%*                       | 71                                                | 4                                    | 1%                                                 | 6%                                                      |
| Little Compton     | 49                      | 26.7%***                     | 13                                                | 0                                    | 0%                                                 | 0%                                                      |
| Middletown         | 431                     | 14.8%*                       | 64                                                | 37                                   | 9%                                                 | 58%                                                     |
| Narragansett       | 210                     | 9.8%**                       | 21                                                | 2                                    | 1%                                                 | 10%                                                     |
| New Shoreham       | 15                      | 10.0%***                     | 2                                                 | 0                                    | 0%                                                 | 0%                                                      |
| Newport            | 514                     | 21.2%*                       | 109                                               | 58                                   | 11%                                                | 53%                                                     |
| North Kingstown    | 593                     | 21.6%**                      | 128                                               | 17                                   | 3%                                                 | 13%                                                     |
| North Providence   | 575                     | 14.9%*                       | 86                                                | 60                                   | 10%                                                | 70%                                                     |
| North Smithfield   | 218                     | 3.9%*                        | 9                                                 | 1                                    | <1%                                                | 12%                                                     |
| Pawtucket          | 2,053                   | 35.5%*                       | 729                                               | 238                                  | 12%                                                | 33%                                                     |
| Portsmouth         | 359                     | 1.6%                         | 6                                                 | 5                                    | 1%                                                 | 87%                                                     |
| Providence         | 4,743                   | 40.3%*                       | 1,911                                             | 663                                  | 14%                                                | 35%                                                     |
| Richmond           | 190                     | 10.6%***                     | 20                                                | 1                                    | 1%                                                 | 5%                                                      |
| Scituate           | 197                     | 11.0%***                     | 22                                                | 2                                    | 1%                                                 | 9%                                                      |
| Smithfield         | 343                     | NA                           | NA                                                | 6                                    | 2%                                                 | NA                                                      |
| South Kingstown    | 504                     | 14.5%**                      | 73                                                | 13                                   | 3%                                                 | 18%                                                     |
| Tiverton           | 287                     | 10.9%*                       | 31                                                | 15                                   | 5%                                                 | 48%                                                     |
| Warren             | 240                     | 13.7%**                      | 33                                                | 15                                   | 6%                                                 | 46%                                                     |
| Warwick            | 1,579                   | 8.6%                         | 136                                               | 135                                  | 9%                                                 | 99%                                                     |
| West Greenwich     | 115                     | NA                           | NA                                                | 2                                    | 2%                                                 | NA                                                      |
| West Warwick       | 703                     | 25.1%**                      | 176                                               | 98                                   | 14%                                                | 56%                                                     |
| Westerly           | 490                     | 14.1%**                      | 69                                                | 33                                   | 7%                                                 | 48%                                                     |
| Woonsocket         | 1,218                   | 47.6%*                       | 580                                               | 190                                  | 16%                                                | 33%                                                     |
| Four Core Cities   | 8,713                   | 40.8%                        | 3,555                                             | 1,164                                | 13%                                                | 33%                                                     |
| Remainder of State | 14,947                  | 14.5%                        | 2,167                                             | 899                                  | 6%                                                 | 41%                                                     |
| Rhode Island       | 23,660                  | 24.3%                        | 5,749                                             | 2,063                                | 9%                                                 | 36%                                                     |

## Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Rhode Island Head Start Programs, all children enrolled (ages three to five) as of October 2016. Children enrolled are listed by residence of child, not location of the Head Start program.

The estimated number of children ages three and four in each community is from Census 2010, Summary File 1. Estimated eligible children is the number of children ages three and four according to Census 2010 multiplied by the % of children under age six living in families with incomes below the federal poverty line (FPL) according to the Population Reference Bureau's (PRB) analysis of 2011-2015 American Community Survey data. Estimated eligible children for the four core cities, remainder of state, and Rhode Island is calculated using PRB estimates for those groupings and is not a sum of estimates by community.

The American Community Survey is a sample survey, and therefore the number and percentage of children living in poverty are estimates. The reliability of these estimates varies by community.

\*The Margin of Error around the percentage is greater than 5 but less than 10 percentage points.

\*\*The Margin of Error around the percentage is greater than 10 but less than 15 percentage points.

\*\*\*The Margin of Error around the percentage is greater than or equal to 15 percentage points.

NA: American Community Survey estimate of % of children under age six in poverty is not available for this community.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

## References

- <sup>1,46</sup> Barnett, S. W. & Friedman-Krauss, A. H. (2016). *State(s) of Head Start*. New Brunswick, NJ: National Institute for Early Education Research.
- <sup>2</sup> Mohan, A. & Walker, C. (2016). *Head Start participants, programs, families and staff in 2014*. Washington, DC: Center for Law and Social Policy.
- <sup>3</sup> Klein, L. & Knitzer, J. (2007). *Promoting effective early learning: What every policymaker and educator should know*. New York, NY: Columbia University, Mailman School of Public Health, National Center for Children in Poverty.

(continued on page 186)

# Children Enrolled in State Pre-K

## DEFINITION

*Children enrolled in State Pre-K* is the number and percentage of children enrolled in the State Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K) program managed by the Rhode Island Department of Education. The State Pre-K program is operated by child care programs, Head Start programs, and public schools.

## SIGNIFICANCE

State-funded Pre-K programs for children ages three and four are available in 42 states, with 29% of four-year-olds and 5% of three-year-olds enrolled nationwide. Seven states and the District of Columbia have more than half of their four-year-olds enrolled in State Pre-K.<sup>1</sup> States have increased investments in Pre-K, recognizing that children who attend high-quality preschool make substantive developmental, academic, language, and social gains that can persist well into later school years, and are less likely to be retained a grade or enrolled in special education.<sup>2,3,4</sup> In states without large public Pre-K programs, children of high-income and highly educated families are much more likely to be enrolled in preschool than children from low- and moderate-income families.<sup>5</sup>

High-quality preschool programs show strong economic returns, with benefits to children and the public far exceeding the original investment. Small

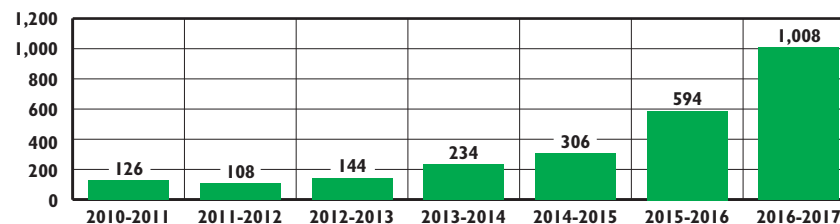
class sizes, low child-teacher ratios, and teachers who are well-educated, well-paid, emotionally supportive, and use curricula effectively produce the biggest gains for children.<sup>6,7,8</sup>

In 2008, the General Assembly passed *The Rhode Island Prekindergarten Education Act*, acknowledging the need to adequately prepare all children to succeed in school by providing access to publicly-funded, high quality Pre-K and requiring the Rhode Island Department of Education to plan for the development of a State Pre-K program that meets high-quality standards, builds on the existing early childhood education infrastructure, and serves children ages three and four.<sup>9</sup>

Rhode Island began offering the State Pre-K program for four-year-olds in the 2009-2010 school year. The state's program is one of only seven in the U.S. to meet all recommended quality benchmarks.<sup>10</sup> Rhode Island's State Pre-K program has been found to improve children's language and math skills and close the achievement gap between low-income children and their more affluent peers by three-quarters.<sup>11</sup>

State Pre-K is an important part of a strong state early learning system that starts at birth and continues through third grade, including nurturing, language-rich environments in child care, Head Start, full-day kindergarten, and the early elementary grades.<sup>12</sup>

Rhode Island State Pre-K Funded Slots, 2010-2011 through 2016-2017



Sources: National Institute for Early Education Research, *The State of Preschool 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015*. Rhode Island Department of Education, State Pre-K programs 2015-2016 through 2016-2017.

◆ As of the 2016-2017 school year, there were 56 State Pre-K classrooms in Rhode Island with a total of 995 children enrolled. Of the children in State Pre-K with a reported home language, 29% spoke a language other than English at home.<sup>13</sup>

◆ Of the 56 State Pre-K classrooms, 38% (21) were operated by a Head Start agency, 36% (20) were operated by a child care center/preschool, and 27% (15) were operated by a public school district.<sup>14</sup>

◆ State Pre-K funds are targeted to communities with a high proportion of low-income families, using the percentage of children participating in the local school district's free and reduced-price lunch program as a guideline. Children are selected to participate in State Pre-K through a lottery, with children from low-income families prioritized for enrollment based on the proportion of low-income children in the local school district.<sup>15</sup>

◆ In the 2016-2017 school year, 676 (68%) of the children enrolled in State Pre-K were low-income.<sup>16</sup> This is approximately 13% of the population of low-income four-year olds under 200% FPL statewide.<sup>17</sup> Including the 1,305 low-income four-year-olds enrolled in Head Start in Rhode Island, approximately 38% of the state's low-income four-year-olds were enrolled in a public preschool program (State Pre-K or Head Start).<sup>18</sup>

## State Pre-K Expansion

◆ With 8% of all four-year-olds enrolled, Rhode Island ranks near the bottom of the 40 states for access to State Pre-K.<sup>19,20</sup> Expansion of the State Pre-K program is included in Rhode Island's education funding formula.<sup>21</sup> In 2014, Rhode Island was awarded a federal Preschool Development Grant that has accelerated expansion.<sup>22</sup>

# Children Enrolled in State Pre-K

Table 40.

Children Enrolled in State Pre-K, Rhode Island, 2016-2017

| CITY/TOWN          | # OF CHILDREN AGE 4 | % CHILDREN <AGE 6 IN LOW-INCOME FAMILIES | ESTIMATED # OF LOW-INCOME CHILDREN AGE 4 | # LOW-INCOME CHILDREN ENROLLED IN STATE PRE-K | % LOW-INCOME CHILDREN AGE 4 ENROLLED IN STATE PRE-K | # CHILDREN ENROLLED IN STATE PRE-K | % CHILDREN AGE 4 ENROLLED IN STATE PRE-K |
|--------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Barrington         | 199                 | 1.0%*                                    | 2                                        | 0                                             | 0%                                                  | 0                                  | 0%                                       |
| Bristol            | 206                 | 30.4%***                                 | 63                                       | 0                                             | 0%                                                  | 0                                  | 0%                                       |
| Burrillville       | 173                 | 16.1%*                                   | 28                                       | 0                                             | 0%                                                  | 0                                  | 0%                                       |
| Central Falls      | 345                 | 82.2%*                                   | 284                                      | 64                                            | 23%                                                 | 72                                 | 21%                                      |
| Charlestown        | 81                  | 53.8%***                                 | 44                                       | 0                                             | 0%                                                  | 0                                  | 0%                                       |
| Coventry           | 366                 | 33.4%**                                  | 122                                      | 0                                             | 0%                                                  | 0                                  | 0%                                       |
| Cranston           | 862                 | 34.5%*                                   | 297                                      | 21                                            | 7%                                                  | 54                                 | 6%                                       |
| Cumberland         | 426                 | 15.5%*                                   | 66                                       | 0                                             | 0%                                                  | 0                                  | 0%                                       |
| East Greenwich     | 158                 | 18.0%**                                  | 28                                       | 0                                             | 0%                                                  | 0                                  | 0%                                       |
| East Providence    | 469                 | 50.9%**                                  | 239                                      | 64                                            | 27%                                                 | 133                                | 28%                                      |
| Exeter             | 55                  | 13.3%***                                 | 7                                        | 0                                             | 0%                                                  | 0                                  | 0%                                       |
| Foster             | 53                  | 25.9%***                                 | 14                                       | 0                                             | 0%                                                  | 0                                  | 0%                                       |
| Glocester          | 106                 | 16.1%***                                 | 17                                       | 0                                             | 0%                                                  | 0                                  | 0%                                       |
| Hopkinton          | 87                  | 33%***                                   | 29                                       | 0                                             | 0%                                                  | 0                                  | 0%                                       |
| Jamestown          | 50                  | NA                                       | NA                                       | 0                                             | NA                                                  | 0                                  | 0%                                       |
| Johnston           | 278                 | 41.2%**                                  | 115                                      | 9                                             | 8%                                                  | 18                                 | 6%                                       |
| Lincoln            | 211                 | 40.5%**                                  | 85                                       | 0                                             | 0%                                                  | 0                                  | 0%                                       |
| Little Compton     | 28                  | 34.9%***                                 | 10                                       | 0                                             | 0%                                                  | 0                                  | 0%                                       |
| Middletown         | 226                 | 33.2%*                                   | 75                                       | 0                                             | 0%                                                  | 0                                  | 0%                                       |
| Narragansett       | 117                 | 18.9%***                                 | 22                                       | 0                                             | 0%                                                  | 0                                  | 0%                                       |
| New Shoreham       | 7                   | 33.3%***                                 | 2                                        | 0                                             | 0%                                                  | 0                                  | 0%                                       |
| Newport            | 232                 | 40.2%**                                  | 93                                       | 36                                            | 39%                                                 | 54                                 | 23%                                      |
| North Kingstown    | 318                 | 30.9%**                                  | 98                                       | 0                                             | 0%                                                  | 0                                  | 0%                                       |
| North Providence   | 282                 | 26.5%**                                  | 75                                       | 8                                             | 11%                                                 | 18                                 | 6%                                       |
| North Smithfield   | 108                 | 20.6%***                                 | 22                                       | 0                                             | 0%                                                  | 0                                  | 0%                                       |
| Pawtucket          | 1,006               | 58.1%*                                   | 584                                      | 70                                            | 12%                                                 | 90                                 | 9%                                       |
| Portsmouth         | 196                 | 15.5%**                                  | 30                                       | 0                                             | 0%                                                  | 0                                  | 0%                                       |
| Providence         | 2,382               | 65.3%*                                   | 1,556                                    | 269                                           | 17%                                                 | 322                                | 14%                                      |
| Richmond           | 102                 | 15.3%***                                 | 16                                       | 0                                             | 0%                                                  | 0                                  | 0%                                       |
| Scituate           | 94                  | 13.4%***                                 | 13                                       | 0                                             | 0%                                                  | 0                                  | 0%                                       |
| Smithfield         | 169                 | 7.9%*                                    | 13                                       | 0                                             | 0%                                                  | 0                                  | 0%                                       |
| South Kingstown    | 273                 | 28.9%**                                  | 79                                       | 0                                             | 0%                                                  | 0                                  | 0%                                       |
| Tiverton           | 143                 | 22.0%**                                  | 32                                       | 0                                             | 0%                                                  | 0                                  | 0%                                       |
| Warren             | 127                 | 32.3%***                                 | 41                                       | 0                                             | 0%                                                  | 0                                  | 0%                                       |
| Warwick            | 850                 | 21.5%*                                   | 183                                      | 12                                            | 7%                                                  | 36                                 | 4%                                       |
| West Greenwich     | 53                  | 8.4%***                                  | 4                                        | 0                                             | 0%                                                  | 0                                  | 0%                                       |
| West Warwick       | 354                 | 53.2%**                                  | 188                                      | 29                                            | 15%                                                 | 72                                 | 20%                                      |
| Westerly           | 244                 | 33%**                                    | 80                                       | 0                                             | 0%                                                  | 0                                  | 0%                                       |
| Woonsocket         | 584                 | 75.8%*                                   | 443                                      | 94                                            | 21%                                                 | 126                                | 22%                                      |
| Four Core Cities   | 4,317               | 66.6%                                    | 2,874                                    | 497                                           | 17%                                                 | 610                                | 14%                                      |
| Remainder of State | 7,703               | 30.1%                                    | 2,316                                    | 179                                           | 8%                                                  | 385                                | 5%                                       |
| Rhode Island       | 12,020              | 43.6%                                    | 5,246                                    | 676                                           | 13%                                                 | 995                                | 8%                                       |

### Source of Data for Table/Methodology

The number of children enrolled in State Pre-K is from the Rhode Island Department of Education, October 2016.

The number of children age four in each community is from Census 2010, Summary File 1.

Estimated number of low-income children age four is the number of children age four according to Census 2010 multiplied by the % of children under age six living in families with incomes below 200% of the federal poverty line (FPL) according to the Population Reference Bureau's analysis of 2011-2015 American Community Survey data. Estimated eligible children for the four core cities, remainder of state, and Rhode Island are calculated using PRB estimates for those groupings and is not a sum of estimates by community.

The American Community Survey is a sample survey, and therefore the number and percentage of children living in poverty are estimates. The reliability of these estimates varies by community.

\*The Margin of Error around the percentage is greater than 5 but less than 10 percentage points.

\*\*The Margin of Error around the percentage is greater than 10 but less than 15 percentage points.

\*\*\*The Margin of Error around the percentage is greater than or equal to 15 percentage points.

NA: American Community Survey estimate of % of children under six in poverty is not available for this community.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

### References

<sup>1,10,20,22</sup> Barnett, W. S., et al. (2016). *The state of preschool 2015: State preschool yearbook*. New Brunswick, NJ: National Institute for Early Education Research, Rutgers Graduate School of Education.

<sup>2,6</sup> Epstein, D. J. & Barnett, W. S. (2012). Early education in the United States: Programs and access. In R. C. Pianta, W. S. Barnett, L. M. Justice & S. M. Sheridan (Eds.), *Handbook of early childhood education*. (pp. 3-21). New York, NY: The Guilford Press.

(continued on page 186)

# Children Receiving Preschool Special Education Services

## DEFINITION

Children receiving preschool special education services is the percentage of children ages three to five who have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) and are receiving special education services in Rhode Island.

## SIGNIFICANCE

Preschool special education is an important component of the early care and education system, providing access to early learning opportunities. The federal *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)* specifies that children ages three to five with developmental delays and disabilities have the same right to a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment as school-age children with disabilities.<sup>1</sup>

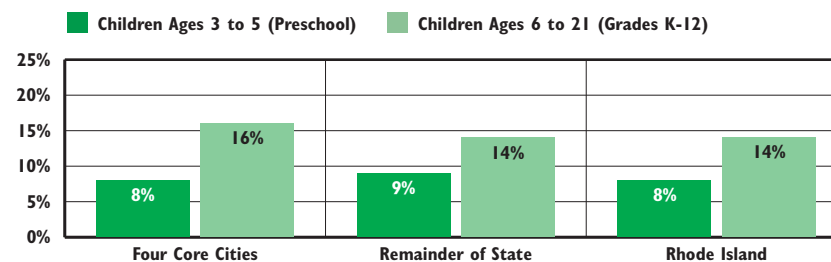
Developmental delays and disabilities are identified when a child does not reach developmental milestones at the same time as other children his or her age. Some young children with developmental delays are eventually diagnosed with a disability while others catch up to their peers when provided with high-quality educational opportunities, therapies or interventions.<sup>2,3</sup> Early childhood developmental screening is the first step in identifying children who may have a disability or developmental delay. Regular screening during the early stages of life, followed by evaluation and diagnostic assessment, helps children gain

early access to needed services in order to prevent the occurrence of more severe problems.<sup>4</sup>

In Rhode Island, school districts work to screen every child ages three through five every year through the Child Outreach screening program. Screenings are conducted in the child's dominant language.<sup>5</sup> In the 2015-2016 school year in Rhode Island, districts completed developmental screenings for 38% of children ages three to five. Although screening rates improved from 2014-2015, preschool-age children in the core cities are still less likely to have a developmental screening (31%) than children in the remainder of the state (43%).<sup>6</sup>

Approximately 15% of U.S. children ages three to 17 have a developmental disability, with boys and children in low-income families more likely to have a disability than girls and children in higher-income families.<sup>7</sup> Under *IDEA*, each state sets its own criteria to determine eligibility for special education services, deciding where to draw the line along a continuum of functioning to identify children who are sufficiently delayed to need special education services.<sup>8</sup> As of 2014, Rhode Island served 8.9% of children ages three to five, compared with a U.S. average of 6.1%, ranking among the top states for providing preschool special education services.<sup>9</sup>

Special Education Participation Rate,  
Children Ages 3 to 5 and 6 to 21, Rhode Island, June 2016



Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, June 2016 Special Education Census. Denominator for children ages three to five is the number of children ages three to five residing in each district. Denominator for children ages six to 21 is the resident average daily membership (RADM) from RIDE. RADM only includes children receiving public education services so it is not comparable to the preschool special education denominator.

- ◆ In June 2016, there were 3,050 children ages three to five receiving preschool special education services, 8% of all preschool-age children in Rhode Island. Children in the four core cities are slightly less likely to be receiving preschool special education services (8%) than children in the remainder of the state (9%).<sup>10</sup>
- ◆ Preschool children with disabilities who attend high-quality preschool with typically developing children, receiving special education services in inclusive settings, have improved outcomes.<sup>11</sup> In June 2016 in Rhode Island, 47% of preschool-age children received special education services within an inclusive early childhood classroom. Children in the four core cities were less likely to receive preschool special education services in an inclusive early childhood setting (42%) than children in the remainder of the state (50%).<sup>12</sup>
- ◆ The majority of children in Rhode Island receive preschool special education services outside of inclusive preschool programs, with 15% enrolled in a separate special education preschool class or school, 24% receiving services through “walk-in” visits to a service provider, less than 1% in a home or hospital, and another 13% enrolled in a preschool setting but receiving special education services in another location.<sup>13</sup>
- ◆ In June 2016, 41% of the 3,050 children receiving preschool special education services in Rhode Island qualified under the developmental delay category, 48% had an identified speech/language disability, 6% were diagnosed with autism, and 4% had another diagnosed disability.<sup>14</sup>

# Children Receiving Preschool Special Education Services

Table 41.

Children Ages 3 to 5 Receiving Special Education Services, Rhode Island, 2016

| SCHOOL DISTRICT        | # OF CHILDREN AGES 3-5 | DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING RATES |                        |                        | PRESCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION BY SETTING |                                      |               |                            |                      |
|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
|                        |                        | % 3-YEAR-OLDS SCREENED        | % 4-YEAR-OLDS SCREENED | % 5-YEAR-OLDS SCREENED | INCLUSIVE EARLY CHILDHOOD CLASS        | % IN INCLUSIVE EARLY CHILDHOOD CLASS | OTHER SETTING | TOTAL # RECEIVING SERVICES | % RECEIVING SERVICES |
| Barrington             | 550                    | 37%                           | 76%                    | 87%                    | 22                                     | 39%                                  | 34            | 56                         | 10%                  |
| Bristol Warren         | 771                    | 18%                           | 46%                    | 42%                    | 34                                     | 49%                                  | 35            | 69                         | 9%                   |
| Burrillville           | 418                    | 19%                           | 48%                    | 67%                    | 34                                     | 56%                                  | 27            | 61                         | 15%                  |
| Central Falls          | 1,000                  | 32%                           | 51%                    | 73%                    | 57                                     | 44%                                  | 74            | 131                        | 13%                  |
| Chariho                | 678                    | 20%                           | 53%                    | 69%                    | 32                                     | 40%                                  | 49            | 81                         | 12%                  |
| Coventry               | 996                    | 25%                           | 48%                    | 67%                    | 60                                     | 63%                                  | 35            | 95                         | 10%                  |
| Cranston               | 2,616                  | 11%                           | 38%                    | 59%                    | 66                                     | 35%                                  | 120           | 186                        | 7%                   |
| Cumberland             | 1,208                  | 9%                            | 38%                    | 56%                    | 58                                     | 59%                                  | 40            | 98                         | 8%                   |
| East Greenwich         | 459                    | 14%                           | 46%                    | 47%                    | *                                      | 18%                                  | 27            | 33                         | 7%                   |
| East Providence        | 1,498                  | 9%                            | 41%                    | 56%                    | 16                                     | 14%                                  | 100           | 116                        | 8%                   |
| Exeter-West Greenwich  | 339                    | 19%                           | 65%                    | 78%                    | 15                                     | 42%                                  | 21            | 36                         | 11%                  |
| Foster                 | 100                    | 21%                           | 60%                    | 66%                    | *                                      | 40%                                  | *             | *                          | 5%                   |
| Glocester              | 236                    | 21%                           | 60%                    | 66%                    | 11                                     | 42%                                  | 15            | 26                         | 11%                  |
| Jamestown              | 125                    | 34%                           | 63%                    | 78%                    | 14                                     | 82%                                  | *             | 17                         | 14%                  |
| Johnston               | 797                    | 22%                           | 49%                    | 71%                    | 23                                     | 29%                                  | 56            | 79                         | 10%                  |
| Lincoln                | 639                    | 14%                           | 57%                    | 67%                    | 71                                     | 83%                                  | 15            | 86                         | 13%                  |
| Little Compton         | 66                     | 7%                            | 63%                    | 81%                    | *                                      | 100%                                 | 0             | *                          | 5%                   |
| Middletown             | 817                    | 14%                           | 25%                    | 36%                    | 34                                     | 81%                                  | *             | 42                         | 5%                   |
| Narragansett           | 232                    | 34%                           | 70%                    | 77%                    | 19                                     | 68%                                  | *             | 28                         | 12%                  |
| New Shoreham           | 36                     | 0%                            | 56%                    | 46%                    | *                                      | 83%                                  | *             | *                          | 17%                  |
| Newport                | 953                    | 12%                           | 40%                    | 51%                    | 40                                     | 70%                                  | 17            | 57                         | 6%                   |
| North Kingstown        | 745                    | 33%                           | 64%                    | 76%                    | 48                                     | 72%                                  | 19            | 67                         | 9%                   |
| North Providence       | 929                    | 19%                           | 49%                    | 60%                    | 35                                     | 43%                                  | 47            | 82                         | 9%                   |
| North Smithfield       | 306                    | 18%                           | 47%                    | 74%                    | 23                                     | 56%                                  | 18            | 41                         | 13%                  |
| Pawtucket              | 3,034                  | 7%                            | 33%                    | 41%                    | 93                                     | 45%                                  | 114           | 207                        | 7%                   |
| Portsmouth             | 503                    | 32%                           | 58%                    | 71%                    | 24                                     | 52%                                  | 22            | 46                         | 9%                   |
| Providence             | 8,107                  | 16%                           | 39%                    | 39%                    | 256                                    | 50%                                  | 253           | 509                        | 6%                   |
| Scituate               | 253                    | 21%                           | 60%                    | 66%                    | 18                                     | 72%                                  | *             | 25                         | 10%                  |
| Smithfield             | 447                    | 27%                           | 68%                    | 79%                    | 24                                     | 53%                                  | 21            | 45                         | 10%                  |
| South Kingstown        | 694                    | 33%                           | 59%                    | 71%                    | 22                                     | 34%                                  | 43            | 65                         | 9%                   |
| Tiverton               | 453                    | 13%                           | 38%                    | 65%                    | 32                                     | 71%                                  | 13            | 45                         | 10%                  |
| Warwick                | 2,525                  | 11%                           | 35%                    | 53%                    | 83                                     | 50%                                  | 83            | 166                        | 7%                   |
| West Warwick           | 1,014                  | 18%                           | 55%                    | 66%                    | 59                                     | 43%                                  | 77            | 136                        | 13%                  |
| Westerly               | 617                    | 34%                           | 70%                    | 83%                    | 62                                     | 79%                                  | 16            | 78                         | 13%                  |
| Woonsocket             | 1,901                  | 8%                            | 25%                    | 51%                    | 37                                     | 17%                                  | 176           | 213                        | 11%                  |
| Charter Schools        | NA                     | NA                            | NA                     | NA                     | *                                      | 78%                                  | *             | *                          | NA                   |
| RI School for the Deaf | NA                     | NA                            | NA                     | NA                     | 0                                      | 0%                                   | *             | *                          | NA                   |
| Four Core Cities       | 14,042                 | 14%                           | 37%                    | 43%                    | 443                                    | 42%                                  | 617           | 1,060                      | 8%                   |
| Remainder of State     | 22,020                 | 18%                           | 47%                    | 62%                    | 995                                    | 50%                                  | 981           | 1,976                      | 9%                   |
| Rhode Island           | 36,062                 | 16%                           | 43%                    | 55%                    | 1,445                                  | 47%                                  | 1,605         | 3,050                      | 8%                   |

## Sources of Data for Table/Methodology

Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE), June 2016 Special Education Census.

2015-2016 Child Outreach screening data is from the RIDE Office of Student, Community, and Academic Supports. Foster, Glocester, and Scituate school districts collaborate to conduct Child Outreach screenings. Separate rates are not available for each of these districts so the same combined rate is used for all three districts.

\*Fewer than 10 students are in this category. Actual numbers are not shown to protect student confidentiality. These students are still counted in district totals and in the four core cities, remainder of the state, and state totals.

The denominator is the number of children ages three to five residing in each district during the 2015-2016 school year from the Rhode Island Department of Health's KIDSNET database shared with RIDE.

Due to changes in the denominator, screening rates and percentage receiving preschool special education services should not be compared with data in Factbooks published before 2016.

Inclusive early childhood class means children receive the majority of their special education services in a general early childhood education class at a public school, Head Start program, or a community-based child care program or preschool. Data include children who are district-placed and who are parentally-placed.

NA=Not applicable.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

## References

- <sup>1,3,8,11</sup> Hebbeler, K. & Spiker, D. (2016). Supporting young children with disabilities. *The Future of Children*, 26(2), 185-205.
- <sup>2</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (n.d.). *Developmental screening fact sheet*. Retrieved January 18, 2016, from www.cdc.gov
- <sup>4</sup> Meisels, S. J. & Atkins-Burnett, S. (2005). *Developmental screening in early childhood: A guide*. (5th edition). Washington, DC: National Association for the Education of Young Children.

(continued on page 186)

# Public School Enrollment and Demographics

## DEFINITION

*Public school enrollment and demographics* is the total number of students enrolled in Rhode Island public schools on October 1.

## SIGNIFICANCE

Education is a lifetime process that begins at birth and continues throughout a child's life into adulthood. Racial, ethnic, and income gaps in educational attainment have been well-documented throughout the country. Research has shown that there are three clusters of factors that have an impact on student achievement: school factors, factors related to connections between home and school, and factors that exist before and beyond school (including health, nutrition, and non-school academic supports).<sup>1</sup>

On October 1, 2016, there were 142,142 students enrolled in Rhode Island public schools in preschool through grade 12, a decrease of 4% from 148,474 on October 1, 2007.

Of the 142,142 Rhode Island public school students in October 2016, 29% (41,419) were attending schools in the four core cities (communities with the highest child poverty rates), 65% (91,811) were attending schools in the remaining districts, and the remaining 8,912 attended charter schools, state-operated schools, or the Urban

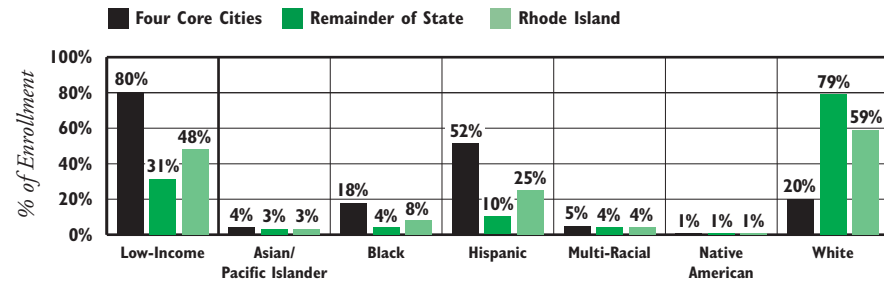
Collaborative Accelerated Project (UCAP). There were an additional 16,892 Rhode Island students attending private and parochial schools (including out-of-state schools) and 1,639 students were home-schooled.<sup>2</sup>

In October 2016, there were 63,659 students in grades K-5, 32,714 in grades 6-8, and 43,271 in grades 9-12. There were 2,498 children enrolled in Rhode Island public preschool classrooms. During the 2016-2017 school year, 995 children received services from state Pre-K programs in 15 public school classrooms and 41 community-based centers.<sup>3,4</sup>

In October 2016, 59% of Rhode Island public school students were non-Hispanic White, 25% were Hispanic, 8% were Black, 3% were Asian/Pacific Islander, 4% were Multi-Racial, and 1% were Native American. In October 2016, 48% of students in Rhode Island were low-income (students who were eligible for the free or reduced-price lunch program).<sup>5</sup>

Rhode Island schools are also diverse in terms of students with disabilities and students who are English Language Learners. During the 2015-2016 school year, 14% of Rhode Island public school students were receiving special education services and 7% were English Language Learners (ELLs).<sup>6</sup>

**Rhode Island Public School Enrollment by Low-Income Status, Race and Ethnicity, October 1, 2016**



Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, October 1, 2016.

◆ In October 2016, 20% of students enrolled in the four core cities were White, compared with 79% in the remainder of the state, and 80% of students enrolled in the four core cities were low-income compared with 31% in the remainder of the state.<sup>7</sup>

## The Changing Makeup of Rhode Island Public Schools

◆ On October 1, 2016, almost half (48%) of Rhode Island public school students were low income (eligible for free or reduced price lunch), up from 38% on October 1, 2007.<sup>8</sup>

◆ Over the past decade, Rhode Island schools have become more diverse. On October 1, 2016, 59% of students enrolled in Rhode Island public schools were non-Hispanic White, a decrease from 69% on October 1, 2007. On October 1, 2016, 25% of students enrolled in Rhode Island public schools were Hispanic, an increase from 18% on October 1, 2007.<sup>9</sup> Despite the increasing diversity of Rhode Island public schools, Hispanic students continue to be concentrated in high-poverty, minority schools. During the 2011-2012 school year, 40% of Latino students were enrolled in Rhode Island public schools with 90-100% minority students, while 24% of Latino students were enrolled in majority White (over 50%) Rhode Island public schools.<sup>10</sup>

◆ On October 1, 2016, 8,129 (6%) Rhode Island public school students were enrolled in charter schools, including district charter schools, up from 2,995 (2%) on October 1, 2007.<sup>11</sup> Part of the recent increase in charter school enrollment can be attributed to the fact that a moratorium on charter schools put in place by the 2004 General Assembly was lifted in 2008.<sup>12</sup>

# Public School Enrollment and Demographics

Table 42. Rhode Island Public School Enrollment by Grade and Demographic Groups, October 1, 2016

| SCHOOL DISTRICT        | ENROLLMENT BY GRADE LEVEL* |             |        |        | ENROLLMENT BY DEMOGRAPHIC GROUPS |                          |         |              |                   |                |         | TOTAL ENROLLMENT |
|------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|--------|--------|----------------------------------|--------------------------|---------|--------------|-------------------|----------------|---------|------------------|
|                        | PRE-SCHOOL                 | ELEMEN-TARY | MIDDLE | HIGH   | % LOW-INCOME                     | % ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER | % BLACK | % HISPANIC** | % NATIVE AMERICAN | % MULTI-RACIAL | % WHITE |                  |
| Barrington             | 25                         | 1,402       | 797    | 1,131  | 6%                               | 6%                       | 1%      | 3%           | <1%               | 4%             | 86%     | 3,355            |
| Bristol Warren         | 60                         | 1,483       | 761    | 914    | 33%                              | 2%                       | 2%      | 5%           | <1%               | 4%             | 87%     | 3,218            |
| Burrillville           | 45                         | 944         | 566    | 786    | 34%                              | 1%                       | 1%      | 3%           | <1%               | 2%             | 92%     | 2,341            |
| Central Falls          | 102                        | 1,307       | 505    | 675    | 81%                              | 1%                       | 15%     | 65%          | 2%                | 3%             | 13%     | 2,589            |
| Chariho                | 72                         | 1,334       | 734    | 1,130  | 19%                              | 1%                       | 1%      | 3%           | 2%                | 3%             | 91%     | 3,270            |
| Coventry               | 113                        | 2,003       | 1,106  | 1,491  | 33%                              | 1%                       | 1%      | 4%           | <1%               | 2%             | 92%     | 4,713            |
| Cranston               | 61                         | 4,533       | 2,467  | 3,354  | 37%                              | 9%                       | 5%      | 26%          | 1%                | 4%             | 56%     | 10,415           |
| Cumberland             | 80                         | 2,001       | 1,134  | 1,353  | 23%                              | 3%                       | 3%      | 10%          | <1%               | 2%             | 81%     | 4,568            |
| East Greenwich         | 43                         | 1,057       | 680    | 724    | 6%                               | 6%                       | 1%      | 6%           | <1%               | 4%             | 84%     | 2,504            |
| East Providence        | 71                         | 2,473       | 1,202  | 1,492  | 56%                              | 2%                       | 12%     | 5%           | 1%                | 8%             | 71%     | 5,238            |
| Exeter-West Greenwich  | 66                         | 665         | 405    | 518    | 13%                              | 1%                       | 1%      | 4%           | <1%               | <1%            | 93%     | 1,654            |
| Foster                 | 0                          | 265         | 0      | 0      | 18%                              | <1%                      | 0%      | 3%           | 0%                | <1%            | 96%     | 265              |
| Foster-Glocester       | 0                          | 0           | 482    | 665    | 17%                              | 1%                       | <1%     | 1%           | <1%               | 1%             | 96%     | 1,147            |
| Glocester              | 9                          | 538         | 0      | 0      | 13%                              | 1%                       | 1%      | 1%           | <1%               | 1%             | 95%     | 547              |
| Jamestown              | 25                         | 293         | 164    | 6      | 10%                              | 2%                       | <1%     | 0%           | 0%                | 2%             | 95%     | 488              |
| Johnston               | 76                         | 1,448       | 772    | 894    | 47%                              | 3%                       | 4%      | 18%          | <1%               | 1%             | 74%     | 3,190            |
| Lincoln                | 104                        | 1,281       | 756    | 861    | 25%                              | 3%                       | 3%      | 6%           | <1%               | 1%             | 86%     | 3,002            |
| Little Compton         | 9                          | 147         | 90     | 0      | 12%                              | 1%                       | <1%     | 1%           | 0%                | 2%             | 96%     | 246              |
| Middletown             | 18                         | 1,036       | 492    | 645    | 33%                              | 4%                       | 6%      | 12%          | 1%                | 7%             | 70%     | 2,191            |
| Narragansett           | 56                         | 516         | 330    | 424    | 20%                              | 2%                       | 1%      | 3%           | 1%                | 4%             | 89%     | 1,326            |
| New Shoreham           | 0                          | 49          | 31     | 40     | 18%                              | 1%                       | 0%      | 16%          | 0%                | 2%             | 81%     | 120              |
| Newport                | 61                         | 1,007       | 483    | 647    | 65%                              | 2%                       | 14%     | 26%          | 2%                | 13%            | 42%     | 2,198            |
| North Kingstown        | 91                         | 1,559       | 959    | 1,438  | 22%                              | 2%                       | 1%      | 6%           | 1%                | 3%             | 87%     | 4,047            |
| North Providence       | 80                         | 1,565       | 865    | 983    | 44%                              | 3%                       | 12%     | 19%          | <1%               | 4%             | 61%     | 3,493            |
| North Smithfield       | 40                         | 738         | 426    | 503    | 17%                              | 2%                       | 1%      | 7%           | <1%               | 3%             | 87%     | 1,707            |
| Pawtucket              | 165                        | 4,606       | 2,228  | 1,985  | 69%                              | 1%                       | 27%     | 29%          | 1%                | 6%             | 35%     | 8,984            |
| Portsmouth             | 33                         | 945         | 565    | 921    | 14%                              | 1%                       | 2%      | 5%           | <1%               | 2%             | 90%     | 2,464            |
| Providence             | 335                        | 11,256      | 5,384  | 7,008  | 86%                              | 5%                       | 17%     | 64%          | 1%                | 4%             | 9%      | 23,983           |
| Scituate               | 11                         | 517         | 350    | 427    | 18%                              | 1%                       | 1%      | 2%           | 0%                | 1%             | 96%     | 1,305            |
| Smithfield             | 45                         | 1,047       | 552    | 740    | 14%                              | 2%                       | 1%      | 5%           | <1%               | 4%             | 89%     | 2,384            |
| South Kingstown        | 92                         | 1,277       | 783    | 959    | 17%                              | 2%                       | 2%      | 4%           | 3%                | 5%             | 85%     | 3,111            |
| Tiverton               | 27                         | 832         | 425    | 557    | 32%                              | 1%                       | 2%      | 1%           | <1%               | 2%             | 93%     | 1,841            |
| Warwick                | 232                        | 3,966       | 2,132  | 2,794  | 37%                              | 4%                       | 2%      | 9%           | <1%               | 4%             | 80%     | 9,124            |
| West Warwick           | 69                         | 1,671       | 764    | 970    | 49%                              | 2%                       | 5%      | 13%          | 1%                | 2%             | 77%     | 3,474            |
| Westerly               | 98                         | 1,237       | 661    | 869    | 33%                              | 3%                       | 1%      | 8%           | 1%                | 6%             | 80%     | 2,865            |
| Woonsocket             | 53                         | 2,951       | 1,300  | 1,559  | 73%                              | 6%                       | 10%     | 33%          | <1%               | 5%             | 46%     | 5,863            |
| Charter Schools        | 24                         | 3,688       | 1,222  | 2,090  | 67%                              | 2%                       | 14%     | 55%          | 1%                | 4%             | 24%     | 7,024            |
| State-Operated Schools | 7                          | 22          | 15     | 1,702  | 65%                              | 1%                       | 14%     | 41%          | 1%                | 6%             | 37%     | 1,746            |
| UCAP                   | 0                          | 0           | 126    | 16     | 95%                              | 4%                       | 21%     | 61%          | 3%                | 0%             | 11%     | 142              |
| Four Core Cities       | 655                        | 20,120      | 9,417  | 11,227 | 80%                              | 4%                       | 18%     | 52%          | 1%                | 5%             | 20%     | 41,419           |
| Remainder of State     | 1,812                      | 39,829      | 21,934 | 28,236 | 31%                              | 3%                       | 4%      | 10%          | 1%                | 4%             | 79%     | 91,811           |
| Rhode Island           | 2,498                      | 63,659      | 32,714 | 43,271 | 48%                              | 3%                       | 8%      | 25%          | 1%                | 4%             | 59%     | 142,142          |

## Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Rhode Island Department of Education, Public School Enrollment in preschool through grade 12 as of October 1, 2016.

\*Preschool includes students enrolled in half-day or full-day preschool through the public school district (primarily preschool special education classrooms). The Rhode Island State Pre-K program served 995 children in 15 public school classrooms and 41 community-based centers in 2016-2017.

\*Elementary includes students in kindergarten through 5th grade, middle includes 6th through 8th grades, and high includes 9th through 12th grades.

\*\*Hispanic students can be of any race.

Children are counted as low-income if they are eligible for a Free or Reduced-Price Lunch Program.

State-operated schools include: Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center, William M. Davies Jr. Career & Technical High School, DCYF, and the Rhode Island School for the Deaf.

Charter Schools include: Achievement First Rhode Island, Beacon Charter High School for the Arts, Blackstone Academy, Blackstone Valley Prep Mayoral Academy, The Compass School, Paul Cuffee Charter School, The Greene School, Highlander Charter School, Hope Academy, International Charter School, Kingston Hill Academy, The Learning Community, RISE Prep Mayoral Academy, Rhode Island Nurses Institute Middle College, Segue Institute for Learning, Sheila C. "Skip" Nowell Leadership Academy, South Side Elementary Charter School, Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts, and The Village Green Virtual Public Charter School.

UCAP is the Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

Students enrolled in state-operated schools, charter schools, and UCAP are not counted in totals for the four core cities or for the remainder of the state, but they are included in the Rhode Island state totals.

## References

<sup>1</sup> Barton, P. E. & Coley, R. J. (2009). *Parsing the achievement gap II*. Princeton, NJ: Educational Testing Service.

(continued on page 187)

# Children Enrolled in Kindergarten

## DEFINITION

*Children enrolled in kindergarten* compiles selected data about children enrolled in public kindergarten in Rhode Island.

## SIGNIFICANCE

As of 2016-2017, 100% of the kindergartners in Rhode Island were in full-day classrooms.<sup>1</sup> Children benefit academically from participating in full-day kindergarten.<sup>2</sup>

The transition to kindergarten is an important point in a child's educational experience, marking either the start of their formal education or the transition between preschool, which is not universally available or guaranteed as part of most states' public education systems, to the early elementary grades. During kindergarten and the early elementary grades, families establish patterns of engagement with their child's school and children learn important social-emotional, literacy, and math skills that establish a foundation for future learning.<sup>3,4</sup>

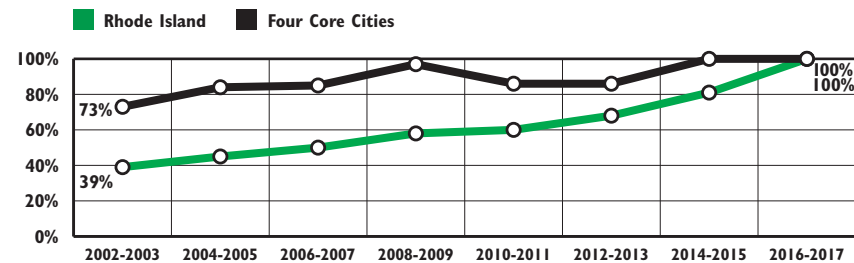
Approximately 66% of four-year-olds and 43% of three-year-olds in the U.S. participate in private or public preschool before kindergarten. Despite increased public investments in preschool, children from higher-income families continue to be more likely to be enrolled in preschool than children from lower-

income families. There is strong evidence that high-quality preschool improves children's language, literacy, and math skills. Preschool participation is also associated with longer-term positive outcomes such as reduced grade retention and need for special education, improved high school graduation rates, and reduced criminal activity.<sup>5</sup>

High-quality and developmentally-appropriate instruction in kindergarten and the early elementary grades helps sustain the positive impacts of preschool and addresses knowledge and skill deficits among children who have not had any early learning opportunities.<sup>6</sup>

Kindergarten and early elementary grade teachers need specialized training in child development, reading instruction, the foundations of math, social-emotional skill building, how to incorporate play and hands-on learning into classroom instruction, and working with diverse groups of children and families. Strategies that support high-quality early grade instruction include requiring PK-Grade 3 teaching certificates, incorporating early childhood education training into elementary principal certification, and aligning quality improvement efforts from early childhood through third grade.<sup>7</sup>

## Children in Full-Day Public Kindergarten Programs, Rhode Island, 2002-2003 Through 2016-2017 School Years



Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, kindergarten enrollment October 1, 2002–October 1, 2016.

- ◆ In the 2016-2017 school year, 100% of the 10,059 children enrolled in public kindergarten in Rhode Island were in full-day kindergarten classrooms.<sup>8</sup> State legislation enacted in 2015 required all districts to implement full-day kindergarten by August 2016.<sup>9</sup>
- ◆ Children in full-day kindergarten make significant gains in early reading, math, and social skills when compared with children in half-day kindergarten.<sup>10</sup>

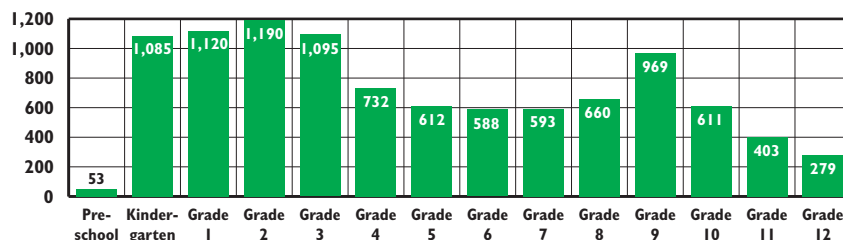
## Kindergarten Entry Assessments

- ◆ Kindergarten entry assessments are an organized way to learn what children know and are able to do across all domains of development when they enter kindergarten. The information is used to improve the transition to kindergarten, guide instruction for individual children, and inform policymakers about early learning needs. These assessments should not be used for high-stakes decisions, such as delaying children's entry into kindergarten.<sup>11,12</sup>
- ◆ As of January 2017, 32 states were using an assessment tool to track skills and knowledge at kindergarten entry. Rhode Island has not yet implemented a statewide tool, but has worked with a consortium of states led by North Carolina to develop and field-test a new, comprehensive Kindergarten Entry Profile that incorporates best practices for young children.<sup>13</sup>
- ◆ Kindergarten teachers can share information about children's strengths and challenges gathered through kindergarten entry assessments to engage parents as partners in the education process.<sup>14</sup>

## Young English Language Learners

- ◆ Language learning is most effective and efficient during the early childhood years, between birth and age eight. Infants and young children learn new languages faster and with more competence than older children and adults.<sup>15</sup>
- ◆ Being bilingual has several advantages, including expanded economic and social opportunities and higher level executive function skills (cognitive flexibility and inhibitory control) that contribute to academic success. Being bilingual also may help delay or prevent the onset of cognitive problems associated with aging.<sup>16</sup>
- ◆ Both bilingual education and English immersion programs can effectively promote English language acquisition and proficiency. Bilingual education has the added advantage of supporting the development of a child’s native language, encouraging fluency in both languages.<sup>17</sup>
- ◆ In Rhode Island, kindergarten through third grades have high levels of English Language Learner students. In 2015-2016, 12% of all kindergartners in Rhode Island (1,085) were English Language Learners. Almost half (47%) of these kindergartners were enrolled in the Providence Public Schools. There were 13 school districts and four public charter schools in the state that had 10 or more English Language Learner students enrolled in kindergarten. There were another 12 school districts and three public charter schools that had at least one kindergartner who was an English Language Learner.<sup>18</sup>

English Language Learners by Grade Level, Rhode Island, 2015-2016 School Year



Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, 2015-2016.

### References

<sup>18</sup> Rhode Island Department of Education, October 1, 2016 enrollment.

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## Kindergartners and School Suspensions

- ◆ Children who are suspended early in their school years are more likely to be suspended again in future years. Students who are suspended are almost ten times more likely to experience academic failure, have negative attitudes toward school, drop out of high school, and become incarcerated.<sup>19</sup>
- ◆ Early suspensions are more likely when teachers believe the resources and supports available to them are inadequate to meet the needs of children with challenging behaviors. Large class sizes, inadequate child-teacher ratios, and lack of school resources to help teachers manage challenging behaviors are associated with increased suspensions.<sup>20</sup> Early childhood mental health consultation is an intervention that works with teachers and families to reduce children’s challenging behaviors, improve child-adult relationships, and prevent early suspensions.<sup>21</sup>

School Suspensions in Kindergarten, Rhode Island, 2015-2016

| DISTRICT                  | NUMBER OF KINDERGARTNERS SUSPENDED | NUMBER OF SUSPENSIONS FOR KINDERGARTNERS | NUMBER OF DAYS KINDERGARTNERS WERE SUSPENDED |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Central Falls             | 0                                  | 0                                        | 0                                            |
| Pawtucket                 | 0                                  | 0                                        | 0                                            |
| Providence                | 17                                 | 29                                       | 38                                           |
| Woonsocket                | 17                                 | 38                                       | 49                                           |
| <i>Charter Schools</i>    | <i>17</i>                          | <i>31</i>                                | <i>42</i>                                    |
| <i>Remainder of State</i> | <i>55</i>                          | <i>99</i>                                | <i>139</i>                                   |
| <i>Rhode Island</i>       | <i>106</i>                         | <i>197</i>                               | <i>268</i>                                   |

- ◆ In 2015-2016 in Rhode Island, there were 106 kindergartners who were suspended at least one day, 45% of whom had a developmental delay or disability. Kindergartners experienced 197 disciplinary actions, with 179 out-of-school suspensions and 18 in-school suspensions. These students were suspended for a total of 268 days.<sup>22</sup>
- ◆ Of the 35 traditional public school districts that had kindergartners enrolled in 2015-2016, 16 had no suspensions for kindergartners and 19 had at least one kindergarten suspension: Bristol Warren, Burrillville, Chariho, Cranston, East Greenwich, East Providence, Johnston, Middletown, Newport, North Kingstown, North Providence, North Smithfield, Providence, Smithfield, Tiverton, Warwick, Westerly, West Warwick, and Woonsocket.<sup>23</sup>

# Out-of-School Time

## DEFINITION

*Out-of-school time* is the number of children participating in organized after-school programs. This indicator presents data on the number of licensed after-school child care programs and slots for children ages six and older as well as available data on children served by after-school programs that do not require state licensing.

## SIGNIFICANCE

Organized programs for school-age children offered during the hours and days when school is not in session have become increasingly popular over the past 50 years. Growth has been driven by the expansion of mothers' labor force participation, concerns over negative consequences associated with children being home alone, passage of the *1990 Child Care Development and Block Grant Act* which provided the first major funding stream for school-age child care, and federal funding for 21st Century Community Learning Centers, which began in 1998. Out-of-school time programs can contribute significantly to children's development and learning.<sup>1</sup>

High-quality, organized after-school and summer programs promote academic and social skills, provide opportunities for children and youth to develop positive relationships with peers and adult mentors, increase children's

safety, and reduce the likelihood that youth engage in inappropriate activities. Children who participate in organized after-school programs and extra-curricular activities benefit socially, emotionally, and academically. Children who are from low-income families and those in need of social and academic supports are most likely to benefit.<sup>2,3</sup>

In most communities, there are not enough high-quality, affordable after-school and summer programs to serve all the children who could benefit from them. Resources are needed both to improve the quality of current programs and to expand access.<sup>4</sup> In Rhode Island, the Providence After School Alliance and the Rhode Island Afterschool Leadership Circle (a United Way of Rhode Island program) act as intermediaries to address access issues and support program quality improvement through the use of the Rhode Island Program Quality Assessment (RIPQA) tool.<sup>5</sup>

Between 2011 and 2015, 77% of Rhode Island children ages six to 17 had all parents in the workforce, higher than the U.S. rate of 71%.<sup>6</sup> Nationally, 56% of children ages five to 14 with employed mothers stay with a relative during the hours when they are not in school, while 19% regularly participate in enrichment activities, 7% are in a child care center or in home-based child care, and 14% regularly stay at home by themselves.<sup>7</sup>

**Students Served by 21st Century Community Learning Centers by Grade Span, Rhode Island, 2015-2016 School Year**

| SCHOOL DISTRICT        | GRADES PK-3 | GRADES 4-5 | GRADES 6-8 | GRADES 9-12 | TOTAL  |
|------------------------|-------------|------------|------------|-------------|--------|
| Central Falls          | 267         | 275        | 258        | 194         | 994    |
| Cranston               | 92          | 36         | 137        | 0           | 265    |
| East Providence        | 131         | 58         | 0          | 0           | 189    |
| Newport                | 428         | 240        | 356        | 262         | 1,286  |
| North Kingstown        | 159         | 77         | 500        | 7           | 743    |
| Pawtucket              | 864         | 442        | 416        | 196         | 1,918  |
| Providence             | 374         | 166        | 1,407      | 1,141       | 3,088  |
| West Warwick           | 0           | 92         | 116        | 2           | 210    |
| Woonsocket             | 240         | 154        | 372        | 873         | 1,639  |
| <i>Charter Schools</i> | 250         | 175        | 254        | 2           | 681    |
| <i>The MET</i>         | 0           | 0          | 0          | 288         | 288    |
| <i>UCAP</i>            | 0           | 0          | 190        | 19          | 209    |
| <i>Rhode Island</i>    | 2,805       | 1,715      | 4,006      | 2,984       | 11,510 |

Source: RI Department of Education, Office of Student, Community and Academic Supports, 2015-2016 school year. Data are not unduplicated as students can be served by more than one grantee. Charter schools are: Highlander Charter School, Paul Cuffee Charter School, and The Learning Community. The MET is the Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center and UCAP is the Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program.

## Summer Learning Loss

◆ **Low-income elementary school students lose up to two months of reading skills over the summer while their higher-income peers make slight gains. Over time, this summer learning loss widens the reading achievement gap that was already present between low-income and higher-income students at kindergarten entry so that low-income students are almost three grade levels behind in reading skills by the end of fifth grade.**<sup>8,9</sup>

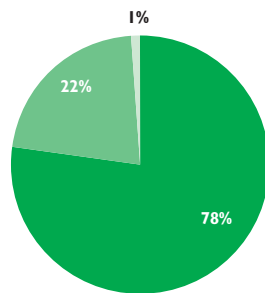
◆ **During the summer of 2015, 3,271 Rhode Island children entering grades Pre-K through 12 participated in 21st Century Community Learning Center programs; 51% were entering grades PK-5, 27% were entering grades 6-8, and 22% were entering grades 9-12.<sup>10</sup> In addition, over 1,600 Rhode Island children in kindergarten through grade 12 participated in 18 Hasbro Summer Learning programs.<sup>11</sup> Students who participated in these two summer learning programs had improved reading and math skills and fewer unexcused absences and disciplinary incidents.<sup>12,13</sup>**

Table 43. Licensed School-Age Child Care for Children Ages Six to 12 Rhode Island, January 2017

| CITY/TOWN          | NUMBER OF CHILDREN AGES 6 TO 12 | NUMBER OF LICENSED PROGRAMS                   |                        | TOTAL NUMBER OF SLOTS |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
|                    |                                 | OPERATED AS PART OF AN EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER | OPERATED INDEPENDENTLY |                       |
| Barrington         | 2,038                           | 3                                             | 1                      | 197                   |
| Bristol            | 1,421                           | 1                                             | 3                      | 156                   |
| Burrillville       | 1,456                           | 0                                             | 2                      | 175                   |
| Central Falls      | 2,045                           | 2                                             | 0                      | 191                   |
| Charlestown        | 616                             | 0                                             | 1                      | 60                    |
| Coventry           | 3,142                           | 5                                             | 2                      | 239                   |
| Cranston           | 6,331                           | 13                                            | 6                      | 759                   |
| Cumberland         | 2,976                           | 0                                             | 10                     | 749                   |
| East Greenwich     | 1,482                           | 4                                             | 1                      | 159                   |
| East Providence    | 3,395                           | 5                                             | 6                      | 686                   |
| Exeter             | 480                             | 0                                             | 1                      | 100                   |
| Foster             | 369                             | 1                                             | 0                      | 26                    |
| Glocester          | 809                             | 1                                             | 0                      | 38                    |
| Hopkinton          | 741                             | 0                                             | 1                      | 52                    |
| Jamestown          | 429                             | 0                                             | 1                      | 50                    |
| Johnston           | 2,119                           | 8                                             | 0                      | 201                   |
| Lincoln            | 1,900                           | 1                                             | 6                      | 561                   |
| Little Compton     | 299                             | 0                                             | 1                      | 26                    |
| Middletown         | 1,442                           | 0                                             | 3                      | 132                   |
| Narragansett       | 856                             | 0                                             | 1                      | 60                    |
| New Shoreham       | 73                              | 0                                             | 0                      | 0                     |
| Newport            | 1,399                           | 2                                             | 2                      | 303                   |
| North Kingstown    | 2,581                           | 4                                             | 3                      | 246                   |
| North Providence   | 2,073                           | 2                                             | 3                      | 271                   |
| North Smithfield   | 1,002                           | 1                                             | 1                      | 170                   |
| Pawtucket          | 6,015                           | 7                                             | 4                      | 763                   |
| Portsmouth         | 1,622                           | 2                                             | 2                      | 191                   |
| Providence         | 15,342                          | 17                                            | 17                     | 2,975                 |
| Richmond           | 777                             | 0                                             | 2                      | 88                    |
| Scituate           | 935                             | 1                                             | 0                      | 26                    |
| Smithfield         | 1,445                           | 4                                             | 2                      | 214                   |
| South Kingstown    | 2,199                           | 1                                             | 1                      | 119                   |
| Tiverton           | 1,201                           | 1                                             | 1                      | 111                   |
| Warren             | 770                             | 1                                             | 1                      | 99                    |
| Warwick            | 6,195                           | 7                                             | 5                      | 664                   |
| West Greenwich     | 624                             | 0                                             | 0                      | 0                     |
| West Warwick       | 2,155                           | 2                                             | 3                      | 293                   |
| Westerly           | 1,850                           | 2                                             | 0                      | 60                    |
| Woonsocket         | 3,653                           | 3                                             | 8                      | 587                   |
| Four Core Cities   | 27,055                          | 29                                            | 29                     | 4,516                 |
| Remainder of State | 59,202                          | 72                                            | 72                     | 7,281                 |
| Rhode Island       | 86,257                          | 101                                           | 101                    | 11,797                |

### School-Age Child Care Subsidies by Type of Setting, Rhode Island, 2016

78% Licensed Center (630)  
 22% Licensed Family Child Care (739)  
 1% License-Exempt Provider (24)



n=3,339

Source: Rhode Island Department of Human Services, September 2016.

◆ In January 2017 in Rhode Island, there were 11,797 school-age child care slots in 202 licensed early childhood or school-age centers. Seventy percent of the slots were in an independently licensed program serving only school-age children and 30% were in a licensed early childhood center.<sup>14</sup>

◆ In January 2017 in Rhode Island, there were 83 independent school-age child care programs participating in BrightStars, Rhode Island's Quality Rating and Improvement System (82% of licensed independent school-age child care programs). Ten programs had a high-quality rating of four or five stars.<sup>15</sup>

#### Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Number of children ages six to 12 years is from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010 Summary File 1.

Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families. Number of licensed school-age child care programs and slots for children ages six to 12 as of January 2017. These numbers do not include licensed family child care home slots, informal child care arrangements, or community programs for youth ages six and older that do not require licensing by the state. Licensed school-age child care programs also provide services to five-year-old children who are enrolled in kindergarten.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

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# English Language Learners

## DEFINITION

*English Language Learners* is the percentage of all public school children (preschool through grade 12) who are receiving English Language Learner services in Rhode Island public schools.

## SIGNIFICANCE

English Language Learner (ELL) students are a fast growing student population in the U.S.<sup>1</sup> Nationally and in Rhode Island, there are large achievement gaps between ELL and non-ELL students, with ELL students having lower rates of math and reading achievement than non-ELL students.<sup>2</sup> Many children of immigrants face challenges to succeeding in school, including poverty, limited access to health care, and low parental education levels, which may contribute to these achievement gaps.<sup>3</sup>

ELL students enter school without the English skills necessary for full participation in the education system. They face challenges based on their immigration status, socioeconomic status, academic background, and home language.<sup>4,5</sup> Successful ELL programs use ongoing assessments of student progress, have highly qualified teachers trained to teach ELL students, and address students' learning, language, and cultural needs.<sup>6,7,8</sup>

ELL students and children in immigrant families are more likely to attend schools that are large, under-resourced, urban, serve high proportions

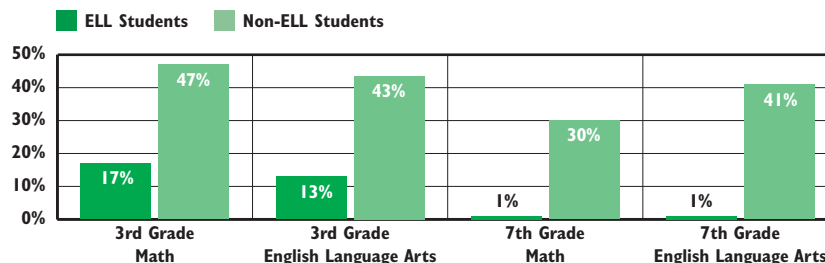
of minority students, and located in high-poverty communities. In the 2015-2016 school year in Rhode Island, ELL students were 7% of total students (9,990). Of these, 85% were enrolled in free or reduced-price lunch programs and 73% lived in the four core cities.<sup>9,10</sup>

Children of immigrants believe that school prepares them to get ahead and most hope to go to college.<sup>11</sup> Schools that foster relationships and offer personalized instruction by effective teachers can help ELL students succeed.<sup>12</sup>

In the 2015-2016 school year, ELL students in Rhode Island public schools spoke 94 different languages. The majority (79%) spoke Spanish, 6% spoke Creole, 3% spoke Portuguese, 2% spoke Arabic, 2% spoke Chinese and, 10% spoke other or multiple languages.<sup>13</sup>

Bilingual education in the early grades can significantly improve English reading proficiency and support long-term academic and economic outcomes.<sup>14,15</sup> During the 2015-2016 school year, bilingual and two-way/dual language programs were offered in the Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and South Kingstown school districts and at the International Charter School.<sup>16</sup>

## Current English Language Learners Meeting Expectations in Math and English Language Arts, Rhode Island, 2016



Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, *Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)*, October 2016.

◆ In 2016, 13% of third-grade ELL students met or exceeded expectations on the *Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)* English language arts assessment, compared to 43% of non-ELL students.<sup>17</sup>

◆ In 2016, 1% of seventh-grade ELL students met or exceeded expectations in the *Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)* math assessment, compared to 30% of non-ELL students.<sup>18</sup>

## Funding to Support English Language Learners

◆ In 2015, Rhode Island was one of only four states with an education funding formula that did not include designated ELL funding.<sup>19</sup>

◆ However, in 2016, the Rhode Island General Assembly established a pilot categorical program to provide additional support for the costs associated with educating English Language Learners. This fund, which is set to expire in June 2017 unless made permanent, provides additional aid equal to 10% of the per pupil core instructional amount for each qualified English Language Learner and is designed to support high-quality, research-based services for English Language Learners.<sup>20</sup>

# English Language Learners

Table 44.

English Language Learner Students, Rhode Island, 2015-2016

| SCHOOL DISTRICT               | TOTAL # OF STUDENTS | NUMBER OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER STUDENTS |                     |                    | TOTAL # OF ELL STUDENTS | % OF TOTAL DISTRICT |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
|                               |                     | ELEMENTARY (GRADES PRE-K-5)                 | MIDDLE (GRADES 6-8) | HIGH (GRADES 9-12) |                         |                     |
| Barrington                    | 3,272               | 34                                          | *                   | *                  | 45                      | 1%                  |
| Bristol Warren                | 3,284               | 54                                          | 15                  | *                  | 75                      | 2%                  |
| Burrillville                  | 2,370               | *                                           | *                   | 0                  | *                       | <1%                 |
| Central Falls                 | 2,609               | 375                                         | 122                 | 220                | 717                     | 27%                 |
| Chariho                       | 3,187               | *                                           | *                   | *                  | 11                      | <1%                 |
| Coventry                      | 4,567               | *                                           | *                   | *                  | 14                      | <1%                 |
| Cranston                      | 10,121              | 316                                         | 107                 | 88                 | 511                     | 5%                  |
| Cumberland                    | 4,508               | 106                                         | 19                  | 13                 | 138                     | 3%                  |
| East Greenwich                | 2,396               | 12                                          | *                   | *                  | 22                      | 1%                  |
| East Providence               | 5,238               | 102                                         | 27                  | 33                 | 162                     | 3%                  |
| Exeter-West Greenwich         | 1,604               | *                                           | *                   | *                  | 12                      | 1%                  |
| Foster                        | 280                 | 0                                           | NA                  | NA                 | 0                       | 0%                  |
| Foster-Glocester              | 1,144               | NA                                          | *                   | 0                  | *                       | <1%                 |
| Glocester                     | 556                 | *                                           | NA                  | NA                 | *                       | <1%                 |
| Jamestown                     | 489                 | *                                           | *                   | 0                  | *                       | <1%                 |
| Johnston                      | 3,188               | 94                                          | 16                  | 11                 | 121                     | 4%                  |
| Lincoln                       | 2,953               | 17                                          | *                   | *                  | 26                      | 1%                  |
| Little Compton                | 247                 | 0                                           | 0                   | 0                  | 0                       | 0%                  |
| Middletown                    | 2,269               | 61                                          | 27                  | 25                 | 113                     | 5%                  |
| Narragansett                  | 1,291               | *                                           | *                   | 0                  | *                       | 1%                  |
| New Shoreham                  | 113                 | *                                           | *                   | *                  | 11                      | 10%                 |
| Newport                       | 2,137               | 92                                          | 38                  | 38                 | 168                     | 8%                  |
| North Kingstown               | 3,973               | 37                                          | 12                  | *                  | 56                      | 1%                  |
| North Providence              | 3,521               | 45                                          | *                   | 11                 | 63                      | 2%                  |
| North Smithfield              | 1,722               | *                                           | *                   | *                  | 13                      | 1%                  |
| Pawtucket                     | 8,965               | 555                                         | 174                 | 163                | 892                     | 10%                 |
| Portsmouth                    | 2,458               | *                                           | *                   | *                  | 18                      | 1%                  |
| Providence                    | 24,106              | 2,930                                       | 994                 | 1,337              | 5,261                   | 22%                 |
| Scituate                      | 1,363               | 0                                           | 0                   | 0                  | 0                       | 0%                  |
| Smithfield                    | 2,364               | 10                                          | *                   | 0                  | 11                      | <1%                 |
| South Kingstown               | 3,207               | 27                                          | 10                  | *                  | 38                      | 1%                  |
| Tiverton                      | 1,806               | *                                           | *                   | *                  | 11                      | 1%                  |
| Warwick                       | 8,941               | 65                                          | 18                  | 10                 | 93                      | 1%                  |
| West Warwick                  | 3,466               | 43                                          | *                   | 10                 | 62                      | 2%                  |
| Westerly                      | 2,845               | 33                                          | *                   | *                  | 45                      | 2%                  |
| Woonsocket                    | 5,835               | 249                                         | 98                  | 92                 | 439                     | 8%                  |
| <i>Charter Schools</i>        | <i>6,244</i>        | <i>564</i>                                  | <i>89</i>           | <i>92</i>          | <i>745</i>              | <i>12%</i>          |
| <i>State-Operated Schools</i> | <i>1,738</i>        | <i>*</i>                                    | <i>*</i>            | <i>58</i>          | <i>67</i>               | <i>4%</i>           |
| <i>UCAP</i>                   | <i>137</i>          | <i>NA</i>                                   | <i>11</i>           | <i>0</i>           | <i>11</i>               | <i>8%</i>           |
| <i>Four Core Cities</i>       | <i>41,515</i>       | <i>4,109</i>                                | <i>1,388</i>        | <i>1,812</i>       | <i>7,309</i>            | <i>18%</i>          |
| <i>Remainder of State</i>     | <i>90,879</i>       | <i>1,209</i>                                | <i>349</i>          | <i>300</i>         | <i>1,858</i>            | <i>2%</i>           |
| <i>Rhode Island</i>           | <i>140,513</i>      | <i>5,887</i>                                | <i>1,841</i>        | <i>2,262</i>       | <i>9,990</i>            | <i>7%</i>           |

## Sources of Data for Table/Methodology

Rhode Island Department Education, 2015-2016 school year. Total number of English Language Learner students is the number of students in each district who were actively enrolled in English Language Learner programs in the 2015-2016 school year. Students who are not yet fully English proficient but have exited ESL or bilingual education programs to regular education are not included in these numbers.

\*Fewer than 10 students are in this category. Actual numbers are not shown to protect student confidentiality. These students are still counted in district totals and in the four core cities, remainder of the state, and state totals.

NA indicates that the school district does not serve students at that grade level.

Due to a change in methodology, the percentage of English Language Learner students by district cannot be compared with percentages before the 2004 Factbook. The “% of Total District” is based on the total number of English Language Learners divided by the “Total # of Students,” which is the average daily membership in the districts of instruction.

Charter schools with ELL students are Achievement First Rhode Island, Blackstone Academy, Blackstone Valley Prep, The Compass School, Paul Cuffee Charter School, Highlander Charter School, Hope Academy, International Charter School, The Learning Community, Rhode Island Nurses Institute Middle College, Segue Institute for Learning, Sheila C. “Skip” Nowell Leadership Academy, South Side Elementary Charter School, and Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts. State-operated schools with ELL students are William M. Davies Career & Technical High School, DCYF Schools, Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center and Rhode Island School for the Deaf. UCAP is the Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

## References

- <sup>1</sup> Calderón, M., Slavin, R., & Sánchez, M. (2011). Effective instruction for English learners. *The Future of Children*, 21(1), 103-119.

(continued on page 187)

# K-12 Students Receiving Special Education Services

## DEFINITION

*K-12 students receiving special education services* is the percentage of students ages six to 21 who received special education services in Rhode Island public schools or who were placed in private special education programs by their district of residence.

## SIGNIFICANCE

Early and accurately targeted special education services help students with developmental delays and disabilities improve their academic achievement and prevent grade retention.<sup>1</sup> Approximately 15% of U.S. children ages three to 17 have a developmental delay or disability. Boys and children in low-income families are more likely to have a delay or disability than girls or children in higher-income families.<sup>2</sup>

The federal *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)* guarantees a free appropriate public education to every child with a disability. Prior to passage of the original 1975 federal law, many children with disabilities were excluded from public school. Since passage, outcomes for children with disabilities have steadily improved. More students with disabilities are being educated in neighborhood schools, included in general education classrooms, reaching proficiency standards, graduating from high school, enrolling in post-secondary education

programs, and becoming employed as adults.<sup>3</sup> In recent years, more children are receiving special education services earlier (in grades K-3).<sup>4</sup>

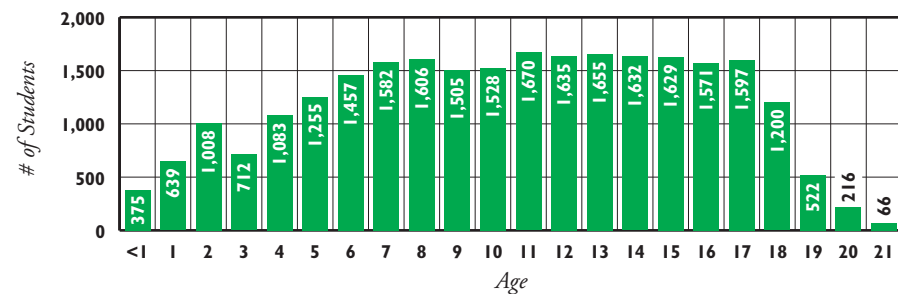
Despite this progress, children with developmental delays and disabilities (approximately 13% of the U.S. public school population) are still less likely to reach academic proficiency targets, graduate from high school, or attend college than students without disabilities. They are also more likely to be suspended from school.<sup>5,6</sup>

The federal *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)* requires states to continue annually reporting the performance of students with disabilities on standardized assessments to inform accountability and action plans.<sup>7</sup>

In 2016 in Rhode Island, 10% of students receiving special education services met expectations on the third grade English language arts section and 15% on the third grade math section of the *Partnership for Assessment for College and Careers (PARCC)* assessment, compared with 44% and 48% of students without special education needs, respectively.<sup>8</sup>

In Rhode Island, the four-year graduation rate for the class of 2016 was 63% for students receiving special education services, compared to 89% for students not receiving these services. Some students enrolled in special education may take additional time to graduate.<sup>9</sup>

Students Ages Birth to 21 Receiving Early Intervention and Special Education Services, Rhode Island, June 2016



Source: Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Center for Child and Family Health, Early Intervention enrollment, June 30, 2016. Rhode Island Department of Education, Office of Diverse Learners, Special Education Census, June 30, 2016. Includes parentally-placed students.

◆ As of June 2016, there were 19,953 students ages six to 21 (14% of all kindergarten through grade 12 students) receiving special education services through Rhode Island public schools. Thirty-eight percent of these students had a learning disability, 18% had a health impairment, 12% had a speech/language disorder, 11% had an autism spectrum disorder, 8% had an emotional disturbance, 5% had a developmental delay, 4% had an intellectual disability, and 3% had other disabilities.<sup>10</sup>

◆ As of June 2016, 72% of students ages six to 21 receiving special education services in Rhode Island were in a regular class for 80% of the day or more, 23% were in a regular class for less than 80% of the day, 5% were in a separate school, and 1% were in a residential facility, a correctional facility, were home-bound, or were hospitalized.<sup>11</sup> Since 1990-1991, the percentage of students ages six to 21 receiving special education services in the U.S. who spent most of the day (80% or more of time) in general education classrooms has nearly doubled.<sup>12</sup>

◆ Of Rhode Island students receiving special education services in June 2016, 67% were boys and 33% were girls; 48% were low-income (receiving free or reduced-price lunch) and 52% were not low-income; 57% were White, 27% were Hispanic, 9% were Black, 4% were Two or more races, 2% were Asian/Pacific Islander, and 1% were Native American; and 8% were English Language Learners.<sup>13</sup>

# K-12 Students Receiving Special Education Services

Table 45.

## Students Ages 6 through 21 Receiving Special Education Services by Primary Disability, Rhode Island, 2016

| SCHOOL DISTRICT           | TOTAL # OF STUDENTS | AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER | DEVELOPMENTAL DELAY | EMOTIONAL DISTURBANCE | HEALTH IMPAIRMENT | LEARNING DISABILITY | INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY | SPEECH/LANGUAGE IMPAIRMENT | OTHER | TOTAL STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES | % STUDENTS RECEIVING SPECIAL EDUCATION |
|---------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Barrington                | 3,257               | 54                       | *                   | 46                    | 58                | 107                 | *                       | 66                         | 14    | 363                              | 11%                                    |
| Bristol Warren            | 3,261               | 53                       | 12                  | *                     | 40                | 120                 | 17                      | 75                         | *     | 335                              | 10%                                    |
| Burrillville              | 2,345               | 48                       | 15                  | 23                    | 50                | 132                 | 11                      | 37                         | *     | 324                              | 14%                                    |
| Central Falls             | 2,518               | 25                       | 26                  | 31                    | 77                | 258                 | 26                      | 49                         | 18    | 510                              | 20%                                    |
| Chariho                   | 3,145               | 53                       | 28                  | 10                    | 64                | 114                 | 12                      | 20                         | 12    | 313                              | 10%                                    |
| Coventry                  | 4,496               | 52                       | 27                  | 54                    | 122               | 277                 | 31                      | 35                         | 24    | 622                              | 14%                                    |
| Cranston                  | 10,074              | 181                      | 55                  | 107                   | 338               | 499                 | 40                      | 64                         | 28    | 1,312                            | 13%                                    |
| Cumberland                | 4,459               | 76                       | 25                  | 43                    | 99                | 213                 | 26                      | 97                         | 29    | 608                              | 14%                                    |
| East Greenwich            | 2,371               | 50                       | 28                  | 21                    | 50                | 60                  | 12                      | 33                         | 12    | 266                              | 11%                                    |
| East Providence           | 5,187               | 89                       | 31                  | 77                    | 145               | 283                 | 36                      | 59                         | 22    | 742                              | 14%                                    |
| Exeter-West Greenwich     | 1,574               | 32                       | *                   | *                     | 25                | 35                  | *                       | 48                         | *     | 171                              | 11%                                    |
| Foster                    | 280                 | *                        | 0                   | 0                     | *                 | *                   | 0                       | 16                         | *     | 32                               | 11%                                    |
| Foster-Glocester          | 1,144               | 17                       | 0                   | *                     | 24                | 44                  | *                       | *                          | *     | 109                              | 10%                                    |
| Glocester                 | 550                 | *                        | *                   | 0                     | *                 | 10                  | *                       | 16                         | *     | 41                               | 7%                                     |
| Jamestown                 | 478                 | 12                       | *                   | *                     | 17                | 16                  | *                       | *                          | 0     | 64                               | 13%                                    |
| Johnston                  | 3,141               | 62                       | 25                  | 30                    | 121               | 249                 | 17                      | 45                         | 14    | 563                              | 18%                                    |
| Lincoln                   | 2,905               | 44                       | 23                  | 32                    | 79                | 155                 | 11                      | 52                         | 13    | 409                              | 14%                                    |
| Little Compton            | 244                 | *                        | *                   | 0                     | *                 | 12                  | *                       | *                          | *     | 26                               | 11%                                    |
| Middletown                | 2,259               | 39                       | *                   | 39                    | 71                | 103                 | 24                      | 39                         | 10    | 334                              | 15%                                    |
| Narragansett              | 1,263               | 21                       | 16                  | 21                    | 42                | 90                  | *                       | 21                         | 10    | 226                              | 18%                                    |
| New Shoreham              | 113                 | *                        | *                   | *                     | 11                | 0                   | *                       | *                          | *     | 23                               | 20%                                    |
| Newport                   | 2,103               | 30                       | 11                  | 31                    | 46                | 154                 | 25                      | 39                         | 20    | 356                              | 17%                                    |
| North Kingstown           | 3,925               | 53                       | 32                  | 49                    | 48                | 155                 | 19                      | 79                         | 19    | 454                              | 12%                                    |
| North Providence          | 3,474               | 61                       | 60                  | 33                    | 100               | 221                 | 15                      | 66                         | 22    | 578                              | 17%                                    |
| North Smithfield          | 1,700               | 24                       | *                   | 18                    | 39                | 93                  | *                       | 35                         | *     | 231                              | 14%                                    |
| Pawtucket                 | 8,868               | 127                      | 95                  | 83                    | 186               | 577                 | 56                      | 176                        | 30    | 1,330                            | 15%                                    |
| Portsmouth                | 2,443               | 40                       | 11                  | 36                    | 92                | 108                 | *                       | 25                         | 16    | 336                              | 14%                                    |
| Providence                | 23,856              | 210                      | 225                 | 342                   | 462               | 1,392               | 172                     | 601                        | 106   | 3,510                            | 15%                                    |
| Scituate                  | 1,356               | 20                       | *                   | *                     | 21                | 57                  | *                       | 27                         | *     | 143                              | 11%                                    |
| Smithfield                | 2,336               | 37                       | 16                  | 21                    | 32                | 120                 | *                       | 11                         | *     | 251                              | 11%                                    |
| South Kingstown           | 3,115               | 54                       | 15                  | 23                    | 77                | 83                  | 16                      | 55                         | 20    | 343                              | 11%                                    |
| Tiverton                  | 1,797               | 45                       | *                   | 16                    | 45                | 99                  | *                       | 24                         | 10    | 250                              | 14%                                    |
| Warwick                   | 8,817               | 205                      | 77                  | 123                   | 289               | 507                 | 38                      | 81                         | 40    | 1,360                            | 15%                                    |
| West Warwick              | 3,426               | 80                       | 44                  | 82                    | 93                | 195                 | 26                      | 29                         | *     | 558                              | 16%                                    |
| Westerly                  | 2,795               | 48                       | 21                  | 35                    | 104               | 130                 | 15                      | 43                         | 22    | 418                              | 15%                                    |
| Woonsocket                | 5,801               | 128                      | 79                  | 107                   | 289               | 417                 | 77                      | 161                        | 29    | 1,287                            | 22%                                    |
| Charter Schools           | 6,612               | 55                       | 36                  | 55                    | 144               | 394                 | 12                      | 120                        | *     | 822                              | 12%                                    |
| State-Operated Schools    | 1,734               | 13                       | 0                   | 32                    | 44                | 109                 | *                       | 0                          | 54    | 256                              | 15%                                    |
| UCAP                      | 137                 | 0                        | 0                   | 0                     | 0                 | 24                  | 0                       | 0                          | 0     | 24                               | 18%                                    |
| Department of Corrections | NA                  | 0                        | 0                   | 23                    | 12                | 18                  | 0                       | 0                          | 0     | 53                               | NA                                     |
| Four Core Cities          | 41,043              | 490                      | 425                 | 563                   | 1,014             | 2,644               | 331                     | 987                        | 183   | 6,637                            | 16%                                    |
| Remainder of State        | 89,833              | 1,592                    | 627                 | 1,027                 | 2,369             | 4,466               | 463                     | 1,252                      | 418   | 12,214                           | 14%                                    |
| Rhode Island              | 139,359             | 2,150                    | 1,088               | 1,677                 | 3,571             | 7,637               | 810                     | 2,359                      | 661   | 19,953                           | 14%                                    |

### Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE), Office for Diverse Learners, Special Education Census June 30, 2016. Data do not include parentally placed students. The denominator (number of students) is the "resident average daily membership" (RADM) for grades K-12 in the 2015-2016 school year provided by RIDE.

Due to changes in methodology, *K-12 Students Receiving Special Education Services* in this Factbook cannot be compared with Factbooks prior to 2015. Data about preschool students receiving special education services can be found in the Children Receiving Preschool Special Education Services indicator.

\*Fewer than 10 students are in this category. Actual numbers are not shown to protect student confidentiality. These students are still counted in district totals and in the four core cities, remainder of the state, and state totals.

NA indicates that no data are available.

Totals of students and percentages of students receiving special education may not sum due to rounding.

The category "other" includes students who are blind/visually impaired, deaf, deaf/blind, hearing impaired, multi-handicapped, orthopedically impaired, and or have traumatic brain injury.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

Charter schools include Achievement First Providence Mayoral Academy, Beacon Charter High School for the Arts, Blackstone Academy, Blackstone Valley Prep, The Compass School, Paul Cuffee Charter School, The Greene School, Highlander Charter School, International Charter School, The Hope Academy, Kingston Hill Academy, The Learning Community, Rhode Island Nurses Institute Middle College Charter School, RISE Prep Mayoral Academy, Segue Institute for Learning, Sheila "Skip" Nowell Leadership Academy, Southside Elementary Charter School, Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts, and Village Green Virtual Charter School.

State-operated schools are William M. Davies Career & Technical High School, DCYF Schools, Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center, and Rhode Island School for the Deaf.

UCAP is the Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program.

References are on page 187.

# Student Mobility

## DEFINITION

*Student mobility* is the number of students who enrolled in school after September 30 or withdrew from school before June 1 divided by the total enrollment for that school district.

## SIGNIFICANCE

Student mobility is associated with lower academic performance, social and psychological difficulties, lower levels of school engagement, and increased risk of dropping out of high school. Changing schools can disrupt learning, can negatively impact a student's achievement, and can cause social upheaval for children. Student mobility also can lead to less active parent involvement in their children's schools.<sup>1,2</sup>

Students who change schools frequently are more likely to have lower math and reading skills, more likely to repeat a grade, more likely to be suspended, and less likely to graduate from high school than their non-mobile peers.<sup>3,4</sup>

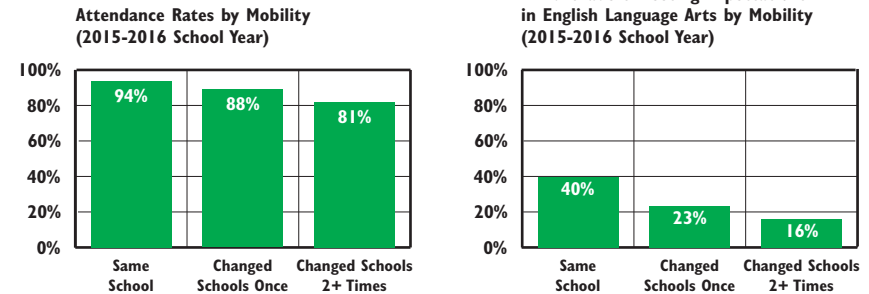
Regardless of income status and ethnicity, mobility can negatively affect student achievement. However, low-income and minority children are more likely to be mobile and experience greater negative impacts on their academic achievement, than higher-income and White students. Students receiving special education services also are likely to be negatively impacted by changing schools.<sup>5,6</sup>

High mobility rates in schools can negatively impact all students because teachers must slow curriculum progress, repeat lessons, and adjust to changing classroom dynamics and student needs. Within-year moves are particularly disruptive for students, teachers and schools.<sup>7,8</sup>

Families may move their children to a different school because they are dissatisfied with the school, concerned about their child's safety, or because they are moving due to changes in family circumstances.<sup>9</sup> Changes in family circumstances can be either positive or negative factors, including eviction or foreclosure, divorce or marriage, job loss or job changes, death in the family, or a desire to improve quality of life. Mobile students in low-income and Black families are more likely to change schools due to family reasons than mobile students in higher-income and White families.<sup>10,11</sup>

Between 2011 and 2015 in Rhode Island, 11% of children ages five to 17 changed residence at least once during the previous year, 81% of whom moved within Rhode Island and 19% of whom moved from another state or abroad.<sup>12</sup> Nationally and in Rhode Island, people with incomes below the poverty line are more likely to move than higher-income residents. Between 2011 and 2015, 24% of Rhode Islanders living below the poverty line moved, compared with 10% of higher-income residents.<sup>13</sup>

## School Mobility and Education Outcomes in Rhode Island



Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, 2015-2016 school year.

- ◆ Rhode Island students who change schools mid-year are absent more often than students who do not change schools. Rhode Island students who did not change schools had a 94% attendance rate, compared with 88% for those who changed schools once and 81% for those who changed schools two or more times during the 2015-2016 school year.<sup>14</sup>
- ◆ Children who change schools mid-year also perform worse on standardized tests than children who have not experienced school mobility. During the 2015-2016 school year in Rhode Island, 40% of third-grade children who did not experience mobility met expectations in reading/writing on the *Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)* state assessment, compared with 23% of students who moved once and 16% of students who moved two or more times.<sup>15</sup>
- ◆ School districts with high mobility rates can reduce the negative effects of mobility on students by providing immediate and comprehensive screening of entering students to ensure that students are properly placed. Districts also can identify other districts where students most frequently transfer to and from and align their curricula, programs, and policies to reduce learning disruption.<sup>16</sup>
- ◆ Schools can help reduce the negative effects of mobility, but broader social policies may be needed to reduce student mobility. Increasing the availability of housing vouchers and access to public benefits, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and WIC, could help low-income families maintain their housing and reduce school mobility.<sup>17,18</sup>

Table 46. Student Mobility and Stability Rates by District, Rhode Island, 2015-2016 School Year

| SCHOOL DISTRICT        | CUMULATIVE ENROLLMENT FOR 2015-2016 | # ENROLLED THE WHOLE YEAR | # ENROLLED AFTER SEPT. 30 | # EXITED BEFORE JUNE 1 | STABILITY RATE | MOBILITY RATE |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Barrington             | 3,359                               | 3,248                     | 54                        | 58                     | 97%            | 3%            |
| Bristol Warren         | 3,533                               | 3,167                     | 131                       | 251                    | 90%            | 11%           |
| Burrillville           | 2,482                               | 2,332                     | 75                        | 87                     | 94%            | 7%            |
| Central Falls          | 3,168                               | 2,371                     | 423                       | 434                    | 75%            | 27%           |
| Chariho                | 3,379                               | 3,123                     | 134                       | 133                    | 92%            | 8%            |
| Coventry               | 5,047                               | 4,594                     | 222                       | 252                    | 91%            | 9%            |
| Cranston               | 11,023                              | 10,003                    | 524                       | 558                    | 91%            | 10%           |
| Cumberland             | 4,794                               | 4,399                     | 190                       | 227                    | 92%            | 9%            |
| East Greenwich         | 2,537                               | 2,423                     | 47                        | 69                     | 96%            | 5%            |
| East Providence        | 5,688                               | 5,033                     | 282                       | 406                    | 88%            | 12%           |
| Exeter-West Greenwich  | 1,707                               | 1,574                     | 55                        | 84                     | 92%            | 8%            |
| Foster                 | 292                                 | 274                       | 11                        | *                      | 94%            | 7%            |
| Foster-Glocester       | 1,183                               | 1,115                     | 20                        | 54                     | 94%            | 6%            |
| Glocester              | 578                                 | 544                       | 18                        | 17                     | 94%            | 6%            |
| Jamestown              | 520                                 | 478                       | 21                        | 22                     | 92%            | 8%            |
| Johnston               | 3,435                               | 3,077                     | 167                       | 215                    | 90%            | 11%           |
| Lincoln                | 3,123                               | 2,903                     | 124                       | 107                    | 93%            | 7%            |
| Little Compton         | 271                                 | 234                       | 23                        | 16                     | 86%            | 14%           |
| Middletown             | 2,444                               | 2,125                     | 139                       | 197                    | 87%            | 14%           |
| Narragansett           | 1,374                               | 1,271                     | 46                        | 61                     | 93%            | 8%            |
| New Shoreham           | 124                                 | 108                       | *                         | *                      | 87%            | 15%           |
| Newport                | 2,422                               | 1,994                     | 238                       | 233                    | 82%            | 19%           |
| North Kingstown        | 4,211                               | 3,885                     | 165                       | 178                    | 92%            | 8%            |
| North Providence       | 3,827                               | 3,381                     | 227                       | 262                    | 88%            | 13%           |
| North Smithfield       | 1,843                               | 1,676                     | 100                       | 88                     | 91%            | 10%           |
| Pawtucket              | 10,063                              | 8,296                     | 901                       | 986                    | 82%            | 19%           |
| Portsmouth             | 2,611                               | 2,370                     | 111                       | 139                    | 91%            | 10%           |
| Providence             | 28,023                              | 21,889                    | 3,126                     | 3,640                  | 78%            | 24%           |
| Scituate               | 1,431                               | 1,329                     | 44                        | 62                     | 93%            | 7%            |
| Smithfield             | 2,472                               | 2,335                     | 70                        | 78                     | 94%            | 6%            |
| South Kingstown        | 3,390                               | 3,121                     | 118                       | 169                    | 92%            | 8%            |
| Tiverton               | 1,963                               | 1,750                     | 64                        | 155                    | 89%            | 11%           |
| Warwick                | 9,755                               | 8,714                     | 545                       | 578                    | 89%            | 12%           |
| West Warwick           | 3,828                               | 3,253                     | 297                       | 324                    | 85%            | 16%           |
| Westerly               | 3,077                               | 2,749                     | 147                       | 191                    | 89%            | 11%           |
| Woonsocket             | 6,768                               | 5,321                     | 610                       | 930                    | 79%            | 23%           |
| Charter Schools        | 6,502                               | 6,089                     | 158                       | 262                    | 94%            | 6%            |
| State-Operated Schools | 2,031                               | 1,615                     | 253                       | 274                    | 80%            | 26%           |
| UCAP                   | 152                                 | 125                       | 10                        | 19                     | 82%            | 19%           |
| Four Core Cities       | 48,022                              | 37,877                    | 5,060                     | 5,990                  | 79%            | 23%           |
| Remainder of State     | 97,723                              | 88,582                    | 4,418                     | 5,289                  | 91%            | 10%           |
| Rhode Island           | 154,430                             | 134,288                   | 9,899                     | 11,834                 | 87%            | 14%           |

## Student Mobility and Stability Rates

◆ Mobility rates are calculated by adding all children who enrolled after September 30 to all those who withdrew before June 1 and dividing the total by the total enrollment for that school district.<sup>19</sup>

◆ Stability rates measure the number of children who attended the same school the entire school year in a school district. The stability rate is calculated by dividing the number of children enrolled the whole year at the same school in the school district by total enrollment for that school district. The stability rate for the four core cities was 79% in the 2015-2016 school year, compared with a stability rate of 91% in the remainder of the state.<sup>20</sup>

◆ Total enrollment for each district is cumulative over the course of the school year.<sup>21</sup>

◆ The overall Rhode Island student mobility rate was 14% in the 2015-2016 school year. The four core cities had a higher mobility rate (23%) than districts in the remainder of the state (10%).<sup>22</sup>

◆ During the 2015-2016 school year, Rhode Island high schools had higher mobility rates (16%) than elementary schools (14%) and middle schools (12%).<sup>23</sup>

### Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Rhode Island Department of Education, 2015-2016 school year.

\*Fewer than 10 students are in this category. Actual numbers are not shown to protect student confidentiality. These students are still counted in district totals and in the four core cities, remainder of the state, and state totals.

Charter Schools include: Achievement First Rhode Island, Beacon Charter High School for the Arts, Blackstone Academy, Blackstone Valley Prep Mayoral Academy, The Compass School, Paul Cuffee Charter School, The Greene School, Highlander Charter School, Hope Academy, International Charter School, Kingston Hill Academy, The Learning Community, RISE Prep Mayoral Academy, Rhode Island Nurses Institute Middle College Charter School, Segue Institute for Learning, Sheila C. "Skip" Nowell Leadership Academy, South Side Elementary Charter School, Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts, and the Village Green Virtual Public Charter School. State-operated schools include DCYF Schools, Metropolitan Regional Career & Technical High School, William M. Davies Career & Technical High School and the Rhode Island School for the Deaf. UCAP is the Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

### References

- <sup>13</sup> Herbers, J. E., Reynolds, A. J., & Chen, C. (2013). School mobility and developmental outcomes in young adulthood. *Development and Psychopathology*, 25(2), 501-515.
- <sup>24,5,8,17</sup> Scherrer, J. (2013). The negative effects of student mobility: Mobility as a predictor, mobility as a mediator. *International Journal of Education Policy and Leadership*, 8(1), 1-14.
- <sup>6,7,10</sup> Burkam, D. T., Lee, V. E., & Dwyer, J. (2009). *School mobility in the early elementary grades: Frequency and impact from nationally-representative data*. Paper presented at the National Research Council Workshop on the Impact of Mobility and Change on the Lives of Young Children, Schools and Neighborhoods, Washington, DC.

(continued on page 188)

# Third-Grade Reading Skills

## DEFINITION

*Third-grade reading skills* is the percentage of third-grade students who met expectations in English language arts on the *Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)* test.

## SIGNIFICANCE

Educators and researchers have long recognized the importance of achieving reading proficiency by the end of third grade, when children begin to shift from learning to read to reading to learn. Students who do not read proficiently by then struggle in the later grades and are four times more likely to drop out of high school than their proficient peers.<sup>1</sup>

Literacy begins long before children encounter formal school instruction in writing and reading. Supportive, literacy-rich home learning environments (including reading and telling stories to children) and parents who provide early cognitive development activities contribute to advanced literacy development, reading achievement, and success in school.<sup>2,3</sup>

High-quality preschool and pre-kindergarten (Pre-K) programs can boost language and literacy skills, and have the greatest impact on children living in or near poverty.<sup>4</sup> Programs targeting the development of social-emotional and behavioral skills improve children's school readiness and academic achievement.

Children who participate in high-quality Pre-K programs score higher on future reading and math assessments, are more likely to become proficient readers in the primary grades, and have higher graduation rates.<sup>5,6</sup>

Students who have the most difficulty reading beyond third grade often need intensive interventions in order to read proficiently. While interventions implemented before third grade have high rates of success, interventions after third grade are much less effective. Once they fall behind, most children never catch up to their grade-level peers.<sup>7,8</sup>

Policy-makers can increase third-grade reading proficiency by increasing access to high-quality early care and education programs (including Pre-K and full-day kindergarten), supporting programs that engage parents as partners in their children's early language and literacy development, and encouraging cross-agency partnerships.<sup>9</sup>

| 4th-Grade NAEP Reading Proficiency |      |      |
|------------------------------------|------|------|
|                                    | 2005 | 2015 |
| RI                                 | 30%  | 40%  |
| US                                 | 30%  | 35%  |
| National Rank*                     | 9th  |      |
| New England Rank**                 | 5th  |      |

\*1st is best; 50th is worst

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

Source: The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, [datacenter.kidscount.org](http://datacenter.kidscount.org)

The *National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)* measures proficiency nationally and across states every other year for grades 4 and 8.

## Third Graders Meeting Expectations on the PARCC English Language Arts Assessment, Rhode Island, 2015-2016

| SUBGROUP                      | 2015 | 2016 | CHANGE |
|-------------------------------|------|------|--------|
| Male Students                 | 33%  | 35%  | +2%    |
| Female Students               | 43%  | 45%  | +2%    |
| English Language Learners     | 8%   | 13%  | +4%    |
| Non-English Language Learners | 40%  | 43%  | +2%    |
| Students With Disabilities    | 11%  | 10%  | -1%    |
| Students Without Disabilities | 42%  | 44%  | +2%    |
| Low-Income Students           | 21%  | 25%  | +4%    |
| Higher-Income Students        | 53%  | 56%  | +3%    |
| White Students                | 48%  | 49%  | +1%    |
| Asian Students                | 48%  | 49%  | +1%    |
| Black Students                | 22%  | 26%  | +4%    |
| Hispanic Students             | 18%  | 24%  | +6%    |
| Native American Students      | 17%  | 15%  | -2%    |
| Central Falls                 | 13%  | 16%  | +3%    |
| Pawtucket                     | 22%  | 31%  | +9%    |
| Providence                    | 14%  | 23%  | +9%    |
| Woonsocket                    | 24%  | 23%  | -1%    |
| ALL STUDENTS                  | 37%  | 40%  | +2%    |

Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, *Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)*, 2015-2016. Low-income status is determined by eligibility for the free or reduced-price lunch program. Change calculations may reflect rounding.

◆ In 2016, 40% of Rhode Island third graders met expectations on the *Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)* English language arts assessment, compared with 37% of students in 2015.<sup>10,11</sup>

◆ In Rhode Island in 2016, 13% of third grade English Language Learners met proficiency, compared with 8% in 2015.<sup>12,13</sup>

◆ In Rhode Island in 2016, 25% of low-income third graders met expectations, compared with 56% of higher-income third graders.<sup>14</sup>

◆ In Rhode Island in 2016, 49% of Asian and White third graders met expectations, compared with 26% of Black, 24% of Hispanic, and 15% of Native American third graders.<sup>15</sup>

# Third-Grade Reading Skills

Table 47. Third Graders Meeting Expectations in English Language Arts, Rhode Island, 2016

| SCHOOL DISTRICT       | # OF THIRD GRADERS ENROLLED | # OF THIRD GRADERS TESTED | % OF THIRD GRADERS TESTED | # OF THIRD GRADERS MEETING EXPECTATIONS | % OF THIRD GRADERS MEETING EXPECTATIONS |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Barrington            | 259                         | 253                       | 98%                       | 154                                     | 61%                                     |
| Bristol Warren        | 242                         | 231                       | 95%                       | 111                                     | 48%                                     |
| Burrillville          | 161                         | 155                       | 96%                       | 41                                      | 26%                                     |
| Central Falls         | 240                         | 223                       | 93%                       | 35                                      | 16%                                     |
| Chariho               | 212                         | 208                       | 98%                       | 141                                     | 68%                                     |
| Coventry              | 368                         | 361                       | 98%                       | 198                                     | 55%                                     |
| Cranston              | 818                         | 797                       | 97%                       | 327                                     | 41%                                     |
| Cumberland            | 356                         | 346                       | 97%                       | 190                                     | 55%                                     |
| East Greenwich        | 178                         | 169                       | 95%                       | 94                                      | 56%                                     |
| East Providence       | 416                         | 404                       | 97%                       | 143                                     | 35%                                     |
| Exeter-West Greenwich | 91                          | 87                        | 96%                       | 35                                      | 40%                                     |
| Foster                | 52                          | 52                        | 100%                      | 23                                      | 44%                                     |
| Glocester             | 92                          | 88                        | 96%                       | 43                                      | 49%                                     |
| Jamestown             | 60                          | 58                        | 97%                       | 38                                      | 66%                                     |
| Johnston              | 251                         | 242                       | 96%                       | 116                                     | 48%                                     |
| Lincoln               | 213                         | 207                       | 97%                       | 139                                     | 67%                                     |
| Little Compton        | 22                          | 22                        | 100%                      | 10                                      | 45%                                     |
| Middletown            | 167                         | 162                       | 97%                       | 67                                      | 41%                                     |
| Narragansett          | 89                          | 85                        | 96%                       | 32                                      | 38%                                     |
| New Shoreham          | 5                           | 4                         | 80%                       | *                                       | *                                       |
| Newport               | 171                         | 159                       | 93%                       | 53                                      | 33%                                     |
| North Kingstown       | 291                         | 277                       | 95%                       | 139                                     | 50%                                     |
| North Providence      | 251                         | 241                       | 96%                       | 93                                      | 39%                                     |
| North Smithfield      | 139                         | 136                       | 98%                       | 69                                      | 51%                                     |
| Pawtucket             | 857                         | 826                       | 96%                       | 256                                     | 31%                                     |
| Portsmouth            | 172                         | 169                       | 98%                       | 84                                      | 50%                                     |
| Providence            | 1,998                       | 1,886                     | 94%                       | 426                                     | 23%                                     |
| Scituate              | 109                         | 108                       | 99%                       | 66                                      | 61%                                     |
| Smithfield            | 192                         | 184                       | 96%                       | 88                                      | 48%                                     |
| South Kingstown       | 231                         | 227                       | 98%                       | 156                                     | 69%                                     |
| Tiverton              | 152                         | 145                       | 95%                       | 101                                     | 70%                                     |
| Warwick               | 648                         | 626                       | 97%                       | 260                                     | 42%                                     |
| West Warwick          | 318                         | 304                       | 96%                       | 93                                      | 31%                                     |
| Westerly              | 220                         | 219                       | 100%                      | 81                                      | 37%                                     |
| Woonsocket            | 529                         | 507                       | 96%                       | 119                                     | 23%                                     |
| Charter Schools       | 419                         | 411                       | 98%                       | 164                                     | 40%                                     |
| Four Core Cities      | 3,624                       | 3,442                     | 95%                       | 836                                     | 24%                                     |
| Remainder of State    | 6,946                       | 6,726                     | 97%                       | 3,185                                   | 47%                                     |
| Rhode Island          | 11,084                      | 10,673                    | 96%                       | 4,229                                   | 40%                                     |

### Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Data are from the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE), *Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)*, 2016.

Due to the adoption of a new assessment tool by RIDE in 2015, Third-Grade Reading Skills cannot be compared with Factbooks prior to 2016.

% meeting expectations are the third-grade students who met or exceeded expectations for their grade on the English language arts section of the *PARCC*. Only students who actually took the test are counted in the denominator for the district and school proficiency rates. Students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) may participate in alternate assessments instead. English Language Learners in the U.S. less than one year are exempt from the English language arts assessment.

2016 *PARCC* data for independent charter schools include Blackstone Valley Prep, The Compass School, The Paul Cuffee Charter School, Highlander Charter School, International Charter School, Kingston Hill Academy, and The Learning Community. Charter schools included in total differ by year, depending on the schools serving that grade level on the year of the test. Charter schools are not included in the four core cities and remainder of state calculations.

\*Fewer than 10 students are in this category. Actual numbers are not shown to protect student confidentiality. These students are still counted in district totals and four core cities, remainder of state, and state totals.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

See Methodology Section for more information.

### References

- <sup>18</sup> Hernandez, D. J. (2012). *Double jeopardy: How third-grade reading skills and poverty influence high school graduation*. Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation.
- <sup>26</sup> Fiester, L. (2013). *Early warning confirmed: A research update on third-grade reading*. Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation.

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# Seventh-Grade Reading Skills

## DEFINITION

*Seventh-grade reading skills* is the percentage of seventh-grade students who met expectations for reading in English language arts on the *Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)* test.

## SIGNIFICANCE

Strong reading skills are essential for a student's academic success in high school and college.<sup>1</sup> Reading skills are also a powerful indicator of a student's ability to contribute to, participate in, and succeed in the workforce and the community.<sup>2</sup> Literacy demands intensify dramatically in grades four through 12, as students are expected to comprehend, synthesize, and analyze increasingly complex texts across academic disciplines. Even after mastering basic literacy skills, adolescents need ongoing support and instruction to develop advanced literacy skills required to succeed in middle and high school, such as applying critical thinking skills and drawing conclusions based on evidence.<sup>3</sup>

Reading difficulties can persist over time with long-term consequences for youth. Adolescents who are poor readers are more likely to drop out of high school, to have lower wages, and to rely on public assistance than their peers with higher levels of literacy.<sup>4</sup> These problems are exacerbated for English Language Learners and low-income

students, who are more likely to have low literacy skills.<sup>5</sup>

There has been limited progress in improving literacy skills among secondary students.<sup>6</sup> When literacy-specific instruction is used as remedial support for struggling adolescents, these programs typically serve only a small proportion of students who need assistance.<sup>7</sup> These supplementary programs are generally insufficient for dealing with the pervasive low levels of adolescent literacy in many schools.<sup>8</sup>

Intensive individualized instruction can help improve adolescent literacy among struggling readers.<sup>9</sup> Successful adolescent literacy programs include comprehensive professional development for teachers and principals in literacy instruction strategies, incorporating literacy instruction in content area classes, providing opportunities for student discussion, and using student assessments effectively.<sup>10,11</sup>

| 8th-Grade NAEP Reading Proficiency |      |      |
|------------------------------------|------|------|
|                                    | 2005 | 2015 |
| RI                                 | 29%  | 35%  |
| US                                 | 29%  | 33%  |
| National Rank*                     |      | 25th |
| New England Rank**                 |      | 6th  |

\*1st is best; 50th is worst

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

Source: The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, [datacenter.kidscount.org](http://datacenter.kidscount.org)

The *National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)* measures proficiency nationally and across states every other year for grades 4 and 8.

## Seventh Graders Meeting Expectations on the PARCC English Language Arts Assessment, Rhode Island, 2015-2016

| SUBGROUP                      | 2015       | 2016       | CHANGE         |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------|----------------|
| Male Students                 | 31%        | 30%        | -1%            |
| Female Students               | 47%        | 47%        | +1%            |
| English Language Learners     | 5%         | 1%         | -4%            |
| Non-English Language Learners | 41%        | 41%        | <1%            |
| Students With Disabilities    | 6%         | 4%         | -2%            |
| Students Without Disabilities | 44%        | 44%        | <1%            |
| Low-Income Students           | 22%        | 21%        | -1%            |
| Higher-Income Students        | 53%        | 54%        | +2%            |
| White Students                | 48%        | 48%        | <1%            |
| Asian Students                | 46%        | 45%        | -1%            |
| Black Students                | 18%        | 19%        | +1%            |
| Hispanic Students             | 20%        | 20%        | <1%            |
| Native American Students      | 24%        | 28%        | +4%            |
| Central Falls                 | 7%         | 12%        | +5%            |
| Pawtucket                     | 17%        | 20%        | +4%            |
| Providence                    | 19%        | 17%        | -2%            |
| Woonsocket                    | 14%        | 13%        | -1%            |
| <b>ALL STUDENTS</b>           | <b>38%</b> | <b>38%</b> | <b>+&lt;1%</b> |

Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, *Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)*, 2015-2016. Low-income status is determined by eligibility for the free or reduced-price lunch program. Change calculations may reflect rounding.

◆ Between 2015 and 2016, the percentage of seventh graders meeting expectations on the *Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)* English language arts assessment remained steady at 38%, while the percentage of third graders meeting expectations increased.<sup>12,13</sup> Although some Rhode Island school districts saw substantial increases in the percentage of seventh graders meeting expectations from 2015 to 2016, most seventh grade subgroups saw little or no increase.<sup>14,15</sup>

◆ In Rhode Island in 2016, 21% of low-income seventh graders met expectations, compared with 54% of higher-income seventh graders.<sup>16</sup> In Rhode Island in 2016, 48% of White and 45% of Asian seventh graders met expectations, compared to 28% of Native American, 20% of Hispanic, and 19% of Black seventh graders.<sup>17</sup>

◆ In Rhode Island in 2016, 1% of seventh-grade English Language Learners met expectations, compared with 41% of students who are not English Language Learners.<sup>18</sup>

# Seventh-Grade Reading Skills

Table 48. Seventh Graders Meeting Expectations in English Language Arts, Rhode Island, 2016

| SCHOOL DISTRICT       | # OF SEVENTH GRADERS ENROLLED | # OF SEVENTH GRADERS TESTED | % OF SEVENTH GRADERS TESTED | # OF SEVENTH GRADERS MEETING EXPECTATIONS | % OF SEVENTH GRADERS MEETING EXPECTATIONS |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Barrington            | 279                           | 275                         | 99%                         | 240                                       | 87%                                       |
| Bristol Warren        | 285                           | 246                         | 86%                         | 128                                       | 52%                                       |
| Burrillville          | 199                           | 179                         | 90%                         | 54                                        | 30%                                       |
| Central Falls         | 132                           | 120                         | 91%                         | 14                                        | 12%                                       |
| Chariho               | 256                           | 246                         | 96%                         | 171                                       | 70%                                       |
| Coventry              | 371                           | 364                         | 98%                         | 139                                       | 38%                                       |
| Cranston              | 830                           | 800                         | 96%                         | 309                                       | 39%                                       |
| Cumberland            | 375                           | 332                         | 89%                         | 135                                       | 41%                                       |
| East Greenwich        | 229                           | 211                         | 92%                         | 162                                       | 77%                                       |
| East Providence       | 413                           | 302                         | 73%                         | 79                                        | 26%                                       |
| Exeter-West Greenwich | 156                           | 150                         | 96%                         | 82                                        | 55%                                       |
| Foster-Glocester      | 157                           | 147                         | 94%                         | 66                                        | 45%                                       |
| Jamestown             | 51                            | 51                          | 100%                        | 35                                        | 69%                                       |
| Johnston              | 259                           | 258                         | 100%                        | 106                                       | 41%                                       |
| Lincoln               | 261                           | 244                         | 93%                         | 101                                       | 41%                                       |
| Little Compton        | 34                            | 27                          | 79%                         | 11                                        | 41%                                       |
| Middletown            | 153                           | 147                         | 96%                         | 74                                        | 50%                                       |
| Narragansett          | 97                            | 96                          | 99%                         | 46                                        | 48%                                       |
| New Shoreham          | 13                            | 12                          | 92%                         | *                                         | 33%                                       |
| Newport               | 157                           | 137                         | 87%                         | 60                                        | 44%                                       |
| North Kingstown       | 310                           | 302                         | 97%                         | 212                                       | 70%                                       |
| North Providence      | 289                           | 286                         | 99%                         | 120                                       | 42%                                       |
| North Smithfield      | 154                           | 148                         | 96%                         | 75                                        | 51%                                       |
| Pawtucket             | 712                           | 688                         | 97%                         | 141                                       | 20%                                       |
| Portsmouth            | 186                           | 158                         | 85%                         | 104                                       | 66%                                       |
| Providence            | 1,817                         | 1,634                       | 90%                         | 275                                       | 17%                                       |
| Scituate              | 107                           | 104                         | 97%                         | 47                                        | 45%                                       |
| Smithfield            | 180                           | 169                         | 94%                         | 64                                        | 38%                                       |
| South Kingstown       | 248                           | 239                         | 96%                         | 137                                       | 57%                                       |
| Tiverton              | 134                           | 131                         | 98%                         | 52                                        | 40%                                       |
| Warwick               | 690                           | 668                         | 97%                         | 253                                       | 38%                                       |
| West Warwick          | 270                           | 253                         | 94%                         | 118                                       | 47%                                       |
| Westerly              | 209                           | 198                         | 95%                         | 97                                        | 49%                                       |
| Woonsocket            | 452                           | 417                         | 92%                         | 56                                        | 13%                                       |
| Charter Schools       | 395                           | 389                         | 98%                         | 138                                       | 35%                                       |
| UCAP                  | 37                            | 37                          | 100%                        | *                                         | 11%                                       |
| Four Core Cities      | 3,113                         | 2,859                       | 92%                         | 486                                       | 17%                                       |
| Remainder of State    | 7,352                         | 6,880                       | 94%                         | 3,281                                     | 48%                                       |
| Rhode Island          | 10,911                        | 10,179                      | 93%                         | 3,910                                     | 38%                                       |

## Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Data are from the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE), *Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)*, 2016.

Due to the adoption of a new assessment tool by RIDE in 2015, Seventh-Grade Reading Skills cannot be compared with Factbooks prior to 2016.

% meeting expectations are the seventh-grade students who met or exceeded expectations for their grade on the English language arts section of the *PARCC*. Only students who actually took the test are counted in the denominator for the district and school proficiency rates. Students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) may participate in alternate assessments. English Language Learners in the U.S. less than one year are exempt from the English language arts assessment.

2015 and 2016 *PARCC* data for independent charter schools include: Blackstone Valley Prep Mayoral Academy, The Compass School, Paul Cuffee Charter School, Highlander Charter School, The Learning Community, Segue Institute for Learning, and Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts. Charter schools included in total differ by year, depending on the schools serving that grade level on the year of the test. UCAP is the Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program. Four core cities and remainder of state calculations do not include charter schools or UCAP.

\*Fewer than 10 students are in this category. Actual numbers are not shown to protect student confidentiality. These students are still counted in district totals and four core cities, remainder of state, and state totals.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

See Methodology Section for more information.

## References

- <sup>1,6,10</sup> Hervey, S. (2013). *Adolescent readers in middle school*. New York, NY: Generation Ready.
- <sup>2,4</sup> Salinger, T. (2011). *Addressing the "crisis" in adolescent literacy*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Smaller Learning Communities Program.

(continued on page 188)

# Math Skills

## DEFINITION

*Math skills* is the percentage of third-, fourth-, fifth-, sixth-, and seventh-grade students who met expectations for math on the *Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)* test.

## SIGNIFICANCE

Students must rely on math to perform everyday activities, advance their education, and navigate today's technological world. Strong math skills predict higher college attendance and success rates and increase students' employability.<sup>1,2</sup> Improving education in the STEM disciplines (science, technology, engineering, and math) can spur national innovation and competitiveness and ensure that we have qualified workers for the growing STEM industries.<sup>3</sup>

State, national, and international assessments show that U.S. students fare well with straight-forward computational procedures but tend to have a limited understanding of basic mathematical concepts, resulting in recent federal actions to increase the level of rigor and coherency of the mathematics content taught nationwide.<sup>4,5</sup> After two decades of improvement, performance in math in the U.S. has begun to level off or slightly decrease in fourth and eighth grades.<sup>6,7</sup>

Family risk factors such as poverty and low parental education levels are

associated with low student achievement in math. Disparities in math proficiency related to race and family income persist in the U.S.<sup>8</sup> Opportunities for high-quality math instruction are especially important for low-income children. Low-income children demonstrate lower levels of math skills before entering school and the gaps continue and even widen throughout their time in school.<sup>9</sup>

Achieving math proficiency for all students requires that improvements be made in curriculum, instructional materials, assessments, classroom practice, teacher preparation, and professional development. These are particularly important as Rhode Island implements new, more rigorous math standards.<sup>10,11</sup> Early warning and intervention systems can provide personalized and timely academic support struggling students.<sup>12</sup>

The *National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)* measures proficiency in math and other subjects nationally and across states every other year.<sup>13</sup> In 2015, 80% of Rhode Island fourth graders and 81% of U.S. fourth graders performed at or above the Basic level in math on the *NAEP*, and 72% of Rhode Island eighth graders and 70% of U.S. eighth graders performed at or above the Basic level in math on the *NAEP*.<sup>14,15</sup> Between 2013 and 2015, Rhode Island saw decreases in both fourth- and eighth-grade math achievement as measured by the *NAEP* math tests.<sup>16</sup>

**Third Graders Meeting Expectations on the PARCC Math Assessment, Rhode Island, 2015-2016**

| SUBGROUP                      | 2015       | 2016       | CHANGE     |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Male Students                 | 36%        | 44%        | +8%        |
| Female Students               | 37%        | 44%        | +7%        |
| English Language Learners     | 11%        | 17%        | +6%        |
| Non-English Language Learners | 39%        | 47%        | +7%        |
| Students With Disabilities    | 12%        | 15%        | +3%        |
| Students Without Disabilities | 41%        | 48%        | +7%        |
| Low-Income Students           | 21%        | 29%        | +9%        |
| Higher-Income Students        | 52%        | 61%        | +9%        |
| White Students                | 46%        | 53%        | +7%        |
| Asian Students                | 52%        | 58%        | +6%        |
| Black Students                | 22%        | 29%        | +7%        |
| Hispanic Students             | 18%        | 28%        | +10%       |
| Native American Students      | 13%        | 17%        | +4%        |
| Central Falls                 | 12%        | 21%        | +9%        |
| Pawtucket                     | 25%        | 39%        | +14%       |
| Providence                    | 14%        | 25%        | +11%       |
| Woonsocket                    | 21%        | 25%        | +4%        |
| <b>ALL STUDENTS</b>           | <b>36%</b> | <b>44%</b> | <b>+7%</b> |

Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, *Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)*, 2015-2016. Low-income status is determined by eligibility for the free or reduced-price lunch program. Change calculations may reflect rounding.

- ◆ From 2015 to 2016, the percentage of students meeting expectations for math on the *PARCC* increased for third, fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh grades.<sup>17,18</sup> In 2016, 44% of Rhode Island third graders met expectations on the *PARCC* math assessment, up from 36% in 2015.<sup>19,20</sup>
- ◆ In Rhode Island in 2016, 29% of low-income third graders met expectations in math, compared with 61% of higher-income third graders.<sup>21</sup> There also were large achievement gaps by race and ethnicity, with 58% of Asian and 53% of White third graders meeting expectations, compared with 29% of Black, 28% of Hispanic, and 17% of Native American students.<sup>22</sup>
- ◆ Legislation passed in 2016 requires the Rhode Island Board of Education to adopt a state goal of closing the achievement gap in third-grade reading and math proficiency.<sup>23</sup>

Table 49.

Third- Fourth-, Fifth-, Sixth-, & Seventh-Grade Students Meeting Expectations in Math, Rhode Island, 2016

| SCHOOL DISTRICT        | % OF STUDENTS MEETING EXPECTATIONS |              |             |             |               |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
|                        | THIRD GRADE                        | FOURTH GRADE | FIFTH GRADE | SIXTH GRADE | SEVENTH GRADE |
| Barrington             | 73%                                | 68%          | 67%         | 61%         | 73%           |
| Bristol Warren         | 56%                                | 47%          | 47%         | 28%         | 40%           |
| Burrillville           | 35%                                | 24%          | 23%         | 16%         | 19%           |
| Central Falls          | 21%                                | 7%           | 12%         | 6%          | 8%            |
| Charlho                | 65%                                | 58%          | 59%         | 40%         | 50%           |
| Coventry               | 53%                                | 50%          | 35%         | 28%         | 31%           |
| Cranston               | 39%                                | 32%          | 34%         | 30%         | 27%           |
| Cumberland             | 66%                                | 49%          | 60%         | 46%         | 32%           |
| East Greenwich         | 67%                                | 56%          | 56%         | 61%         | 63%           |
| East Providence        | 41%                                | 38%          | 33%         | 23%         | 18%           |
| Exeter-West Greenwich  | 62%                                | 64%          | 69%         | 49%         | 37%           |
| Foster                 | 38%                                | 27%          | 30%         | NA          | NA            |
| Glocester              | 57%                                | 66%          | 61%         | NA          | NA            |
| Foster-Glocester       | NA                                 | NA           | NA          | 42%         | 38%           |
| Jamestown              | 81%                                | 64%          | 57%         | 60%         | 59%           |
| Johnston               | 49%                                | 33%          | 35%         | 25%         | 25%           |
| Lincoln                | 68%                                | 50%          | 43%         | 40%         | 30%           |
| Little Compton         | 68%                                | 55%          | 38%         | 57%         | 44%           |
| Middletown             | 54%                                | 51%          | 37%         | 44%         | 42%           |
| Narragansett           | 34%                                | 37%          | 63%         | 50%         | 59%           |
| New Shoreham           | *                                  | *            | 20%         | *           | 25%           |
| Newport                | 36%                                | 41%          | 32%         | 26%         | 31%           |
| North Kingstown        | 57%                                | 46%          | 57%         | 52%         | 55%           |
| North Providence       | 45%                                | 27%          | 32%         | 21%         | 16%           |
| North Smithfield       | 53%                                | 47%          | 45%         | 31%         | 32%           |
| Pawtucket              | 39%                                | 23%          | 31%         | 17%         | 9%            |
| Portsmouth             | 57%                                | 49%          | 28%         | 41%         | 49%           |
| Providence             | 25%                                | 17%          | 14%         | 9%          | 10%           |
| Scituate               | 64%                                | 51%          | 61%         | 33%         | 33%           |
| Smithfield             | 47%                                | 47%          | 32%         | 37%         | 37%           |
| South Kingstown        | 70%                                | 68%          | 64%         | 55%         | 53%           |
| Tiverton               | 73%                                | 43%          | 35%         | 37%         | 51%           |
| Warwick                | 46%                                | 32%          | 33%         | 35%         | 29%           |
| West Warwick           | 28%                                | 22%          | 16%         | 34%         | 23%           |
| Westerly               | 55%                                | 46%          | 30%         | 32%         | 32%           |
| Woonsocket             | 25%                                | 19%          | 12%         | 10%         | 11%           |
| Charter Schools        | 42%                                | 42%          | 37%         | 33%         | 20%           |
| State-Operated Schools | NA                                 | NA           | NA          | NA          | NA            |
| UCAP                   | NA                                 | NA           | NA          | NA          | 0%            |
| Four Core Cities       | 28%                                | 18%          | 18%         | 11%         | 10%           |
| Remainder of State     | 52%                                | 43%          | 42%         | 37%         | 36%           |
| Rhode Island           | 44%                                | 35%          | 34%         | 29%         | 28%           |

Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Data are from the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE), *Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)*, 2016.

Due to the adoption of a new assessment tool by RIDE in the 2014-2015 school year, *Math Skills* cannot be compared with Factbooks prior to 2016.

The number of students who met or exceeded expectations received a score of four or five on the math section of the *PARCC* assessment, respectively. Only students who actually took the test are counted in denominator for the district's or school's proficiency rate. All enrolled students are eligible unless their Individualized Education Program (IEP) specifically exempts them or unless they are beginning English Language Learners.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

2015 and 2016 *PARCC* data for independent charter schools include Blackstone Valley Prep Mayoral Academy, Highlander Charter School, International Charter School, Kingston Hill Academy, The Learning Community, Paul Cuffee Charter School, The Compass School, Segue Institute for Learning, and Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts.

Charter schools and the Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program (UCAP) are not included in the four core cities and remainder of state calculations.

NA indicates that the school district does not serve students at that grade level and \* indicates fewer than 10 students are in this category. Actual numbers are not shown to protect student confidentiality. These students are still counted in district totals and four core cities, remainder of state, and state totals.

References

<sup>1,7,8</sup> Child Trends. (2015). *Mathematics proficiency*. Retrieved January 23, 2017, from [www.childtrends.org](http://www.childtrends.org)

<sup>2</sup> RI DataHub. (n.d.). *Data story: Math preparation and postsecondary success*. Retrieved January 24, 2017, from [ridatahub.org](http://ridatahub.org)

(continued on page 188)

# Schools Identified for Intervention

## DEFINITION

*Schools identified for intervention* is the percentage of Rhode Island public schools that are classified as “Focus” or “Priority” and identified for intervention by the Rhode Island Department of Education.

## SIGNIFICANCE

Since its passage in 2001, the federal *No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB)* has focused on closing achievement gaps and improving public schools. In 2012, Rhode Island replaced its former system of classifying schools with a new accountability system that identifies each school’s strengths and weaknesses and focuses on outcomes for student subgroups so Rhode Island can provide the support and interventions schools need to improve student achievement and close achievement gaps.<sup>1</sup> This accountability system classifies schools based on proficiency in English language arts and math, success in closing the achievement gap between the lowest and highest performing students, growth at the elementary and middle school levels, and graduation rates at the high school level.<sup>2</sup>

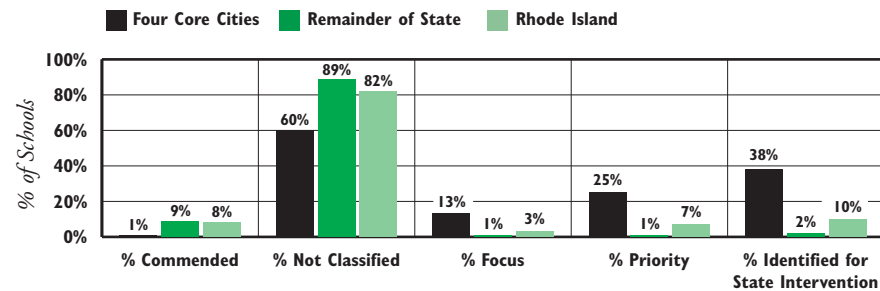
Rhode Island continues to transition to the *Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)* assessments and to the federal *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)* and is working to develop a new system for

school classifications. Under *ESSA*, the U.S. Department of Education requires states to identify schools that should receive comprehensive support, including at least 5% of schools receiving Title I funds and all Title I schools that fail to graduate one third or more of their students. The *ESSA*-required accountability system must be in effect by the 2018-2019 school year.<sup>3,4,5</sup>

*ESSA* makes some changes to how states must design their school accountability systems going forward. When developing new school accountability systems, states may consider assessments other than standardized tests, such as portfolios or projects, and must include a measure of “school quality or student success,” such as student engagement, chronic absence, school climate and safety, access to advanced coursework, or college and career readiness, in their accountability systems.<sup>6,7</sup>

Research on school improvement efforts shows that schools can be improved through comprehensive, whole-school reforms. Critical elements of successful school turnaround efforts include identifying and supporting strong teachers and building leaders, using data-based decision making, setting high expectations for all students, providing wrap-around services to support the social, emotional, and behavioral needs of students, and creating a positive and collaborative school culture.<sup>8</sup>

**Rhode Island School Performance Classifications, 2015-2016 School Year**



Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, 2015-2016 school year. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding. Aside from Commended, Focus, and Priority Schools, no other Rhode Island schools receive classifications.

◆ In Rhode Island in the 2015-2016 school year, 22 schools (8%) were classified as “Commended,” 10 schools (3%) were classified as “Focus,” and 20 schools (7%) were classified as “Priority.” Aside from “Commended,” “Focus,” and “Priority,” schools do not receive classifications, although 50 schools received an “alert” due to low graduation or testing rates.<sup>9,10</sup> Schools designated as “Priority” or “Focus” schools (10% of schools in Rhode Island in 2015-2016) were identified for intervention, and 26 of these 30 schools were located in the four core cities.<sup>11</sup>

## Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) School Quality or Student Success Measure

- ◆ *ESSA* requires that state accountability systems include five types of indicators, including measures of academic achievement, growth or achievement gap closure, the high school graduation rate, English language proficiency, and a fifth indicator that measures school quality or student success.<sup>12</sup>
- ◆ *ESSA* requires that the school quality or student success measure meaningfully differentiate among schools and be valid, reliable, and comparable. The law specifically mentions measures of student engagement, educator engagement, access to advanced coursework, college readiness, and school climate and safety. However, states can select other indicators, including the level of parent or community involvement in the school and/or chronic absence. States should ensure that the indicator(s) selected cannot be easily manipulated and measure factors that are within a school’s control.<sup>13,14</sup>

# Schools Identified for Intervention

Table 50.

Schools Identified for Intervention, 2015-2016 School Year

| SCHOOL DISTRICT               | TOTAL # OF SCHOOLS | # COMMENDED | # NOT CLASSIFIED | # FOCUS   | # PRIORITY | # SUBJECT TO STATE INTERVENTION | % SUBJECT TO STATE INTERVENTION |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|------------------|-----------|------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Barrington                    | 6                  | 4           | 2                | 0         | 0          | 0                               | 0%                              |
| Bristol Warren                | 6                  | 1           | 5                | 0         | 0          | 0                               | 0%                              |
| Burrillville                  | 4                  | 0           | 4                | 0         | 0          | 0                               | 0%                              |
| Central Falls                 | 4                  | 0           | 1                | 1         | 2          | 3                               | 75%                             |
| Chariho                       | 7                  | 2           | 5                | 0         | 0          | 0                               | 0%                              |
| Coventry                      | 7                  | 0           | 7                | 0         | 0          | 0                               | 0%                              |
| Cranston                      | 23                 | 0           | 22               | 1         | 0          | 1                               | 4%                              |
| Cumberland                    | 8                  | 1           | 7                | 0         | 0          | 0                               | 0%                              |
| East Greenwich                | 4                  | 1           | 3                | 0         | 0          | 0                               | 0%                              |
| East Providence               | 11                 | 0           | 9                | 0         | 2          | 2                               | 18%                             |
| Exeter-West Greenwich         | 3                  | 0           | 3                | 0         | 0          | 0                               | 0%                              |
| Foster                        | 1                  | 0           | 1                | 0         | 0          | 0                               | 0%                              |
| Foster-Glocester              | 2                  | 0           | 2                | 0         | 0          | 0                               | 0%                              |
| Glocester                     | 2                  | 0           | 2                | 0         | 0          | 0                               | 0%                              |
| Jamestown                     | 2                  | 2           | 0                | 0         | 0          | 0                               | 0%                              |
| Johnston                      | 6                  | 1           | 5                | 0         | 0          | 0                               | 0%                              |
| Lincoln                       | 6                  | 0           | 6                | 0         | 0          | 0                               | 0%                              |
| Little Compton                | 1                  | 0           | 1                | 0         | 0          | 0                               | 0%                              |
| Middletown                    | 5                  | 0           | 5                | 0         | 0          | 0                               | 0%                              |
| Narragansett                  | 3                  | 0           | 3                | 0         | 0          | 0                               | 0%                              |
| New Shoreham                  | 1                  | 0           | 1                | 0         | 0          | 0                               | 0%                              |
| Newport                       | 3                  | 0           | 3                | 0         | 0          | 0                               | 0%                              |
| North Kingstown               | 8                  | 1           | 7                | 0         | 0          | 0                               | 0%                              |
| North Providence              | 9                  | 0           | 9                | 0         | 0          | 0                               | 0%                              |
| North Smithfield              | 4                  | 1           | 3                | 0         | 0          | 0                               | 0%                              |
| Pawtucket                     | 16                 | 1           | 14               | 0         | 1          | 1                               | 6%                              |
| Portsmouth                    | 4                  | 0           | 4                | 0         | 0          | 0                               | 0%                              |
| Providence                    | 40                 | 0           | 18               | 8         | 14         | 22                              | 55%                             |
| Scituate                      | 5                  | 1           | 4                | 0         | 0          | 0                               | 0%                              |
| Smithfield                    | 6                  | 0           | 6                | 0         | 0          | 0                               | 0%                              |
| South Kingstown               | 7                  | 2           | 5                | 0         | 0          | 0                               | 0%                              |
| Tiverton                      | 5                  | 1           | 4                | 0         | 0          | 0                               | 0%                              |
| Warwick                       | 22                 | 0           | 22               | 0         | 0          | 0                               | 0%                              |
| West Warwick                  | 5                  | 0           | 5                | 0         | 0          | 0                               | 0%                              |
| Westerly                      | 6                  | 0           | 6                | 0         | 0          | 0                               | 0%                              |
| Woonsocket                    | 8                  | 0           | 8                | 0         | 0          | 0                               | 0%                              |
| <i>Charter Schools</i>        | <i>21</i>          | <i>3</i>    | <i>18</i>        | <i>0</i>  | <i>0</i>   | <i>0</i>                        | <i>0%</i>                       |
| <i>State-Operated Schools</i> | <i>4</i>           | <i>0</i>    | <i>3</i>         | <i>0</i>  | <i>1</i>   | <i>1</i>                        | <i>25%</i>                      |
| <i>UCAP</i>                   | <i>1</i>           | <i>0</i>    | <i>1</i>         | <i>0</i>  | <i>0</i>   | <i>0</i>                        | <i>0%</i>                       |
| <i>Four Core Cities</i>       | <i>68</i>          | <i>1</i>    | <i>41</i>        | <i>9</i>  | <i>17</i>  | <i>26</i>                       | <i>38%</i>                      |
| <i>Remainder of State</i>     | <i>192</i>         | <i>18</i>   | <i>171</i>       | <i>1</i>  | <i>2</i>   | <i>3</i>                        | <i>2%</i>                       |
| <i>Rhode Island</i>           | <i>286</i>         | <i>22</i>   | <i>234</i>       | <i>10</i> | <i>20</i>  | <i>30</i>                       | <i>10%</i>                      |

### Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Source of Data for Table/Methodology Data are from the Rhode Island Department of Education, 2015-2016 school year.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

Charter schools that are classified include Achievement First Providence Mayoral Academy, Beacon Charter School, Beacon Charter High School for the Arts, Founders Academy, Blackstone Academy Charter, Blackstone Valley Prep Elementary, Blackstone Valley Prep Elementary 2, Blackstone Valley Prep High School, Blackstone Valley Prep Middle School, Highlander Charter School, International Charter School, Kingston Hill Academy, Paul Cuffee Charter School, Rhode Island Nurses Institute Middle College Charter School, Segue Institute for Learning, Sheila "Skip" Nowell Leadership Academy I, Sheila Skip Nowell Leadership Academy II, The Compass School, The Greene School, The Learning Community Charter School, Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts, and Village Green Virtual Charter School.

State-operated schools that are classified include the William M. Davies Jr. Career and Technical High School, DCYF, Metropolitan Regional Career & Technical Center, and the Rhode Island School for the Deaf. UCAP is the Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program.

The only newly classified schools this year are Commended Schools. No new Focus or Priority schools were identified. Schools listed as "not classified" in this table were not Commended, Focus, or Priority schools or were not classified in 2015-2016 because they did not have sufficient years of data.

See the Methodology Section for more information.

### References

<sup>1</sup> *Rhode Island school and district accountability system ESEA flexibility under NCLB.* (2012). Providence, RI: Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary School Education.

<sup>20</sup> *Rhode Island accountability process revisions for school years 2015 and 2016: A presentation to the accountability 3.0.* (2016). Providence, RI: Rhode Island Department of Education.

(continued on page 188)

# Chronic Early Absence

## DEFINITION

*Chronic early absence* is the percentage of children in kindergarten through third grade (K-3) who were enrolled for at least 90 days and missed 18 days or more of school, including excused and unexcused absences (10% or more of the school year for a 180-day school year).

## SIGNIFICANCE

Students who are absent from school miss opportunities to learn and develop the important academic and social-emotional skills and approaches to learning that are part of the K-3 experience and critical for ongoing school success.<sup>1,2</sup> Children who are chronically absent in kindergarten show lower levels of achievement in math, reading, and general knowledge in first grade. Chronic absence in kindergarten appears to be especially detrimental for poor and Hispanic children.<sup>3</sup> In Rhode Island, children who are chronically absent in kindergarten have lower levels of achievement as far out as the seventh grade and are more than twice as likely to be retained.<sup>4</sup>

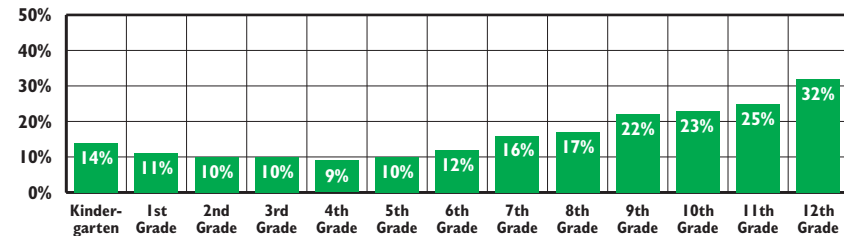
More than 3.8 million elementary school students nationwide or 11% of all elementary school students are chronically absent.<sup>5</sup> In the early grades, children from poor families are much more likely to be chronically absent than higher-income children. In the U.S., one in five (21%) poor kindergartners were

chronically absent, compared to less than one in 10 (8%) of their higher-income peers.<sup>6</sup> Children who are homeless or formerly homeless experience poor educational outcomes related to student absenteeism and mobility.<sup>7</sup> Chronic absenteeism can affect the reading and math outcomes of all students in a class, not just those who are absent, because teachers may have to backtrack or slow the learning pace to review lessons for students who have missed school.<sup>8</sup>

Young children are chronically absent from school for a variety of reasons. Asthma is one of the leading causes of school absenteeism, accounting for one-third of all absences, but other physical and behavioral health issues, including poor dental health, vision problems, diabetes, obesity, anxiety, and/or depression can also result in chronic absence.<sup>9,10</sup>

While illness is a leading factor in chronic early absence, chronic absenteeism also can result from poor quality education, ambivalence about or alienation from school, and chaotic school environments, including high rates of teacher turnover or absenteeism, disruptive classrooms, and/or bullying. Unreliable or insufficient transportation, violence at and around school, multiple foster care placements, lack of clean or affordable clothes, and lack of safe and affordable housing are other factors that can lead to chronic absence.<sup>11,12,13</sup>

**Chronic Absence Rates in Rhode Island by Grade, 2015-2016 School Year**



Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, 2015-2016 school year.

- ◆ **Chronic absence rates are high in kindergarten and then decline before increasing again in middle and high school.** During the 2015-2016 school year, 14% of Rhode Island kindergarten students, 11% of first graders, 10% of second graders, and 10% of third graders were chronically absent (i.e., absent 18 days or more), down from 18% of kindergarten students, 14% of first graders, 12% of second graders, and 11% of third graders during the 2014-2015 school year.<sup>14,15</sup>
- ◆ **During the 2015-2016 school year, 11% of all Rhode Island children in grades K-3 were chronically absent, and an additional 14% missed 12 to 17 days of school.**<sup>16</sup>
- ◆ **Averages for school-wide attendance can mask significant numbers of chronically absent individual students.**<sup>17</sup> During the 2015-2016 school year, the average daily attendance rate for K-3 students in Rhode Island's four core cities was 94%, but 19% of students were chronically absent.<sup>18</sup>
- ◆ **Schools, districts, and the state can nurture a culture of attendance by raising awareness among school and community personnel about the problem of chronic absence, using positive messaging to encourage parents to send their children to school on time and every day in the early grades, providing frequent reports on student absenteeism, and identifying and intervening with students with troubling absenteeism patterns.**<sup>19,20</sup>
- ◆ **States can prioritize reducing chronic absence by making chronic absence rates and strategies for improving them a key part of accountability systems and district and school improvement plans and allocating resources to address barriers to attendance.**<sup>21</sup>

Table 51.

**Chronic Early Absence Rates, Grades K-3, Rhode Island, 2015-2016 School Year**

| SCHOOL DISTRICT                         | K-3 STUDENTS ENROLLED LESS THAN 90 DAYS | K-3 STUDENTS ENROLLED 90 DAYS OR MORE | K-3 ATTENDANCE RATE | % OF K-3 STUDENTS ABSENT 0-5 DAYS | % OF K-3 STUDENTS ABSENT 6-11 DAYS | % OF K-3 STUDENTS ABSENT 12-17 DAYS | % OF K-3 STUDENTS ABSENT 18+ DAYS |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Barrington                              | 15                                      | 867                                   | 96%                 | 51%                               | 36%                                | 10%                                 | 3%                                |
| Bristol Warren                          | 66                                      | 1,001                                 | 95%                 | 42%                               | 33%                                | 16%                                 | 8%                                |
| Burrillville                            | 18                                      | 631                                   | 95%                 | 36%                               | 43%                                | 14%                                 | 6%                                |
| Central Falls                           | 123                                     | 892                                   | 94%                 | 36%                               | 27%                                | 17%                                 | 20%                               |
| Chariho                                 | 41                                      | 829                                   | 96%                 | 51%                               | 36%                                | 10%                                 | 3%                                |
| Coventry                                | 92                                      | 1,272                                 | 95%                 | 41%                               | 36%                                | 16%                                 | 8%                                |
| Cranston                                | 186                                     | 2,945                                 | 95%                 | 42%                               | 35%                                | 12%                                 | 11%                               |
| Cumberland                              | 66                                      | 1,314                                 | 97%                 | 57%                               | 31%                                | 9%                                  | 3%                                |
| East Greenwich                          | 27                                      | 625                                   | 98%                 | 80%                               | 17%                                | 2%                                  | <1%                               |
| East Providence                         | 116                                     | 1,656                                 | 95%                 | 42%                               | 33%                                | 14%                                 | 12%                               |
| Exeter-West Greenwich                   | *                                       | 408                                   | 96%                 | 42%                               | 39%                                | 14%                                 | 5%                                |
| Foster                                  | 12                                      | 170                                   | 96%                 | 48%                               | 36%                                | 11%                                 | 5%                                |
| Glocester                               | 13                                      | 349                                   | 96%                 | 45%                               | 42%                                | 10%                                 | 3%                                |
| Jamestown                               | *                                       | 205                                   | 95%                 | 31%                               | 39%                                | 22%                                 | 8%                                |
| Johnston                                | 67                                      | 963                                   | 95%                 | 40%                               | 37%                                | 14%                                 | 9%                                |
| Lincoln                                 | 35                                      | 816                                   | 96%                 | 48%                               | 35%                                | 11%                                 | 6%                                |
| Little Compton                          | *                                       | 86                                    | 97%                 | 57%                               | 30%                                | 10%                                 | 2%                                |
| Middletown                              | 62                                      | 702                                   | 96%                 | 43%                               | 36%                                | 14%                                 | 7%                                |
| Narragansett                            | 20                                      | 323                                   | 96%                 | 47%                               | 40%                                | 10%                                 | 3%                                |
| New Shoreham                            | *                                       | 27                                    | 93%                 | 30%                               | 15%                                | 37%                                 | 19%                               |
| Newport                                 | 70                                      | 717                                   | 95%                 | 36%                               | 32%                                | 18%                                 | 14%                               |
| North Kingstown                         | 49                                      | 982                                   | 96%                 | 48%                               | 34%                                | 12%                                 | 5%                                |
| North Providence                        | 83                                      | 1,041                                 | 95%                 | 41%                               | 34%                                | 10%                                 | 10%                               |
| North Smithfield                        | 30                                      | 484                                   | 96%                 | 51%                               | 38%                                | 8%                                  | 3%                                |
| Pawtucket                               | 402                                     | 3,162                                 | 95%                 | 44%                               | 31%                                | 15%                                 | 10%                               |
| Portsmouth                              | 38                                      | 658                                   | 96%                 | 50%                               | 36%                                | 11%                                 | 4%                                |
| Providence                              | 1,231                                   | 7,735                                 | 93%                 | 31%                               | 29%                                | 18%                                 | 21%                               |
| Scituate                                | 17                                      | 336                                   | 93%                 | 32%                               | 33%                                | 16%                                 | 19%                               |
| Smithfield                              | 16                                      | 678                                   | 96%                 | 50%                               | 37%                                | 10%                                 | 4%                                |
| South Kingstown                         | 43                                      | 840                                   | 96%                 | 46%                               | 40%                                | 10%                                 | 4%                                |
| Tiverton                                | 50                                      | 539                                   | 97%                 | 69%                               | 20%                                | 7%                                  | 3%                                |
| Warwick                                 | 169                                     | 2,596                                 | 95%                 | 44%                               | 34%                                | 12%                                 | 9%                                |
| West Warwick                            | 109                                     | 1,161                                 | 95%                 | 39%                               | 33%                                | 15%                                 | 12%                               |
| Westerly                                | 67                                      | 856                                   | 96%                 | 45%                               | 34%                                | 16%                                 | 5%                                |
| Woonsocket                              | 382                                     | 2,036                                 | 93%                 | 28%                               | 30%                                | 19%                                 | 24%                               |
| <i>Charter Schools</i>                  | <i>51</i>                               | <i>2,460</i>                          | <i>96%</i>          | <i>55%</i>                        | <i>28%</i>                         | <i>11%</i>                          | <i>6%</i>                         |
| <i>Rhode Island School for the Deaf</i> | <i>0</i>                                | <i>*</i>                              | <i>99%</i>          | <i>100%</i>                       | <i>0%</i>                          | <i>0%</i>                           | <i>0%</i>                         |
| <i>Four Core Cities</i>                 | <i>2,138</i>                            | <i>13,825</i>                         | <i>94%</i>          | <i>34%</i>                        | <i>29%</i>                         | <i>17%</i>                          | <i>19%</i>                        |
| <i>Remainder of State</i>               | <i>1,603</i>                            | <i>26,077</i>                         | <i>96%</i>          | <i>46%</i>                        | <i>34%</i>                         | <i>12%</i>                          | <i>7%</i>                         |
| <i>Rhode Island</i>                     | <i>3,792</i>                            | <i>42,371</i>                         | <i>95%</i>          | <i>42%</i>                        | <i>32%</i>                         | <i>14%</i>                          | <i>11%</i>                        |

**Source of Data for Table/Methodology**

Rhode Island Department of Education, 2015-2016 school year.

Attendance rates are calculated by dividing the state-calculated "average days of attendance" by the "average days of membership."

Chronic absence rates are based on attendance patterns for students who were enrolled in a district for at least 90 days. A total of 3,792 Rhode Island students in grades K-3 were not included in this analysis because they were only enrolled for a short period. The Rhode Island Department of Education excludes these students so that chronic absence issues can be examined separate from student mobility issues. It is likely that more students were excluded from districts with higher student mobility rates.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

Charter schools include Achievement First Rhode Island, Blackstone Valley Prep Mayoral Academy, The Compass School, Paul Cuffee Charter School, Highlander Charter School, Hope Academy, International Charter School, Kingston Hill Academy, The Learning Community, RISE Prep Mayoral Academy, and South Side Elementary Charter School.

\*Fewer than 10 students are in this category. Actual numbers are not shown to protect student confidentiality. These students are still counted in district totals and in the four core cities, remainder of the state, and state totals.

**References**

<sup>1</sup> Romero, M. & Lee, Y. (2008). *The influence of maternal and family risk on chronic absenteeism in early schooling*. New York, NY: Columbia University, Mailman School of Public Health, National Center for Children in Poverty.

<sup>2,3,12,19</sup> Chang, H. N., & Romero, M. (2008). *Present, engaged, and accounted for: The critical importance of addressing chronic absence in the early grades*. New York, NY: Columbia University, Mailman School of Public Health, National Center for Children in Poverty.

<sup>4</sup> RI DataHUB. (n.d.). *Chronic absenteeism among kindergarten students*. Retrieved February 10, 2017, from <http://ridatahub.org>

(continued on page 188)

# Chronic Absence, Middle School and High School

## DEFINITION

*Chronic absence, middle school and high school* is the percentage of children in middle and high school who were enrolled for at least 90 days and missed 18 days or more of school, including excused and unexcused absences (10% or more of the school year for a 180-day school year).

## SIGNIFICANCE

Students who are frequently absent from school miss critical academic and social learning opportunities and are at risk of disengagement from school, academic failure, and dropping out.<sup>1</sup> Studies in large cities have shown strong relationships between chronic absence in middle and high school and the likelihood of dropping out.<sup>2</sup> Chronic absence in sixth grade is one of three early warning signs that a student is likely to drop out of high school, and by ninth grade, a student's attendance is a better predictor of dropout risk than eighth-grade achievement test scores.<sup>3</sup>

Students miss school for a variety of reasons, including physical and mental health problems, substance abuse, lack of access to health care, unstable housing, child welfare or juvenile justice involvement, work or family responsibilities, and lack of affordable or reliable transportation. Students may also stay away from school to avoid bullying, harassment, disciplinary actions due to

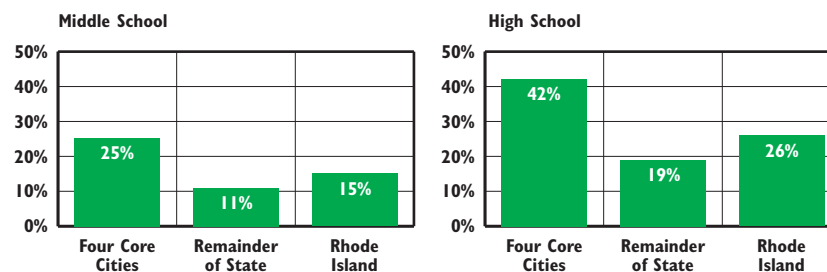
tardiness, or embarrassment associated with lack of clean or appropriate clothing or literacy or other academic problems.<sup>4,5,6</sup>

A national survey of students found that the most common reasons students report skipping school are that they find school boring or are uninterested in their classes. Other common reasons are a desire to spend times with friends outside of school, school start times that are too early, the desire to avoid a test or homework, work or family responsibilities, bullying, and transportation issues.<sup>7</sup>

The Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) defines truancy as ten or more unexcused absences in a school year.<sup>8</sup> During the 2015-2016 school year in Rhode Island, 22% of middle school students and 32% of high school students were considered truant by RIDE.<sup>9</sup> Truant students in Rhode Island may be referred to the Family Court's Truancy Calendar, a community and school-based intervention program.<sup>10</sup>

Almost one-third (31%) of Rhode Island's low-income middle and high school students were chronically absent in 2015-2016, compared with 12% of higher-income students. Middle and high school students receiving special education services (29%) were more likely than their peers not receiving these services (19%) to be chronically absent. Almost three-quarters (72%) of absences by middle and high school students were unexcused absences.<sup>11</sup>

## Chronic Absence Rate by District Type, Middle and High School, 2015-2016 School Year



Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, 2015-2016 school year.

◆ The chronic absence rate among middle (25%) and high (42%) school students in the four core cities is more than twice as high as the rates among middle (11%) and high (19%) school students in the remainder of the state.<sup>12</sup>

◆ One of the most effective strategies for increasing student achievement, high school graduation rates, and college access and completion, and for closing achievement gaps between higher income and lower income students, would be to increase the number of low-income students who attend school regularly.<sup>13</sup>

## Reducing Chronic Absence

◆ Schools, districts, and community agencies can improve student attendance by developing systems that provide frequent reports on student absenteeism and reasons for the absenteeism, problem solving to address reasons for absenteeism, building and sustaining relationships with students and their families, developing a community response that involves adults who interact with students outside of school, recognizing and rewarding good attendance, and committing to learning what works, expanding effective programs, and halting efforts that are not working.<sup>14,15</sup>

◆ States can reduce chronic absence by raising awareness about the problem; producing chronic absence reports with data available by district, grade, and subgroup; making chronic absence rates and strategies for improving them a key part of accountability systems and district and school improvement plans; and allocating resources to address barriers to attendance.<sup>16,17</sup>

# Chronic Absence, Middle School and High School

Table 52.

Chronic Absence and Attendance Rates, Middle and High School, Rhode Island, 2015-2016 School Year

| SCHOOL DISTRICT        | MIDDLE SCHOOL (GRADES 6-8)   |                            |                 |                     |                   | HIGH SCHOOL (GRADES 9-12)    |                            |                 |                     |                   |
|------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|
|                        | # ENROLLED LESS THAN 90 DAYS | # ENROLLED 90 DAYS OR MORE | ATTENDANCE RATE | % ABSENT 12-17 DAYS | % ABSENT 18+ DAYS | # ENROLLED LESS THAN 90 DAYS | # ENROLLED 90 DAYS OR MORE | ATTENDANCE RATE | % ABSENT 12-17 DAYS | % ABSENT 18+ DAYS |
| Barrington             | 10                           | 846                        | 96%             | 10%                 | 6%                | 24                           | 1,048                      | 97%             | 8%                  | 4%                |
| Bristol Warren         | 37                           | 761                        | 94%             | 18%                 | 17%               | 92                           | 929                        | 91%             | 18%                 | 27%               |
| Burrillville           | 19                           | 592                        | 96%             | 9%                  | 6%                | 34                           | 766                        | 95%             | 12%                 | 11%               |
| Central Falls          | 84                           | 457                        | 92%             | 16%                 | 28%               | 190                          | 661                        | 86%             | 16%                 | 40%               |
| Chariho                | 25                           | 754                        | 96%             | 10%                 | 6%                | 63                           | 1,109                      | 94%             | 12%                 | 12%               |
| Coventry               | 60                           | 1,162                      | 95%             | 13%                 | 10%               | 102                          | 1,553                      | 94%             | 15%                 | 17%               |
| Cranston               | 100                          | 2,565                      | 94%             | 15%                 | 17%               | 199                          | 3,289                      | 88%             | 15%                 | 40%               |
| Cumberland             | 41                           | 1,166                      | 96%             | 12%                 | 5%                | 86                           | 1,346                      | 94%             | 14%                 | 16%               |
| East Greenwich         | 19                           | 639                        | 98%             | 1%                  | 1%                | 15                           | 742                        | 99%             | 1%                  | <1%               |
| East Providence        | 88                           | 1,166                      | 94%             | 16%                 | 17%               | 132                          | 1,509                      | 91%             | 14%                 | 30%               |
| Exeter-West Greenwich  | *                            | 424                        | 96%             | 10%                 | 4%                | 40                           | 518                        | 96%             | 12%                 | 8%                |
| Foster-Glocester       | 16                           | 470                        | 91%             | 23%                 | 27%               | 23                           | 674                        | 92%             | 21%                 | 18%               |
| Jamestown              | *                            | 163                        | 96%             | 17%                 | 5%                | NA                           | NA                         | NA              | NA                  | NA                |
| Johnston               | 46                           | 783                        | 94%             | 18%                 | 14%               | 60                           | 879                        | 92%             | 16%                 | 28%               |
| Lincoln                | 31                           | 762                        | 95%             | 11%                 | 11%               | 50                           | 878                        | 92%             | 14%                 | 23%               |
| Little Compton         | *                            | 104                        | 96%             | 8%                  | 9%                | NA                           | NA                         | NA              | NA                  | NA                |
| Middletown             | 30                           | 553                        | 95%             | 14%                 | 11%               | 40                           | 676                        | 95%             | 14%                 | 12%               |
| Narragansett           | 13                           | 297                        | 96%             | 12%                 | 8%                | 27                           | 412                        | 95%             | 12%                 | 12%               |
| New Shoreham           | *                            | 33                         | 95%             | 18%                 | 9%                | *                            | 35                         | 94%             | 20%                 | 14%               |
| Newport                | 49                           | 474                        | 94%             | 18%                 | 15%               | 96                           | 604                        | 90%             | 19%                 | 31%               |
| North Kingstown        | 33                           | 967                        | 96%             | 11%                 | 6%                | 62                           | 1,416                      | 95%             | 10%                 | 9%                |
| North Providence       | 47                           | 880                        | 95%             | 16%                 | 12%               | 101                          | 1,004                      | 92%             | 12%                 | 24%               |
| North Smithfield       | 21                           | 463                        | 96%             | 11%                 | 6%                | 40                           | 505                        | 95%             | 13%                 | 8%                |
| Pawtucket              | 194                          | 2,158                      | 95%             | 14%                 | 12%               | 248                          | 2,004                      | 90%             | 13%                 | 32%               |
| Portsmouth             | 33                           | 594                        | 96%             | 10%                 | 9%                | 43                           | 904                        | 94%             | 13%                 | 13%               |
| Providence             | 915                          | 5,457                      | 91%             | 16%                 | 28%               | 1,336                        | 6,727                      | 86%             | 15%                 | 45%               |
| Scituate               | 19                           | 346                        | 95%             | 13%                 | 10%               | 12                           | 464                        | 93%             | 18%                 | 22%               |
| Smithfield             | *                            | 560                        | 96%             | 11%                 | 7%                | 37                           | 747                        | 95%             | 11%                 | 11%               |
| South Kingstown        | 31                           | 785                        | 96%             | 9%                  | 5%                | 49                           | 994                        | 95%             | 10%                 | 10%               |
| Tiverton               | 18                           | 431                        | 98%             | 5%                  | 2%                | 65                           | 543                        | 99%             | 2%                  | 1%                |
| Warwick                | 102                          | 2,155                      | 95%             | 15%                 | 10%               | 213                          | 2,797                      | 92%             | 16%                 | 21%               |
| West Warwick           | 45                           | 743                        | 93%             | 15%                 | 19%               | 120                          | 1,004                      | 92%             | 11%                 | 21%               |
| Westerly               | 18                           | 677                        | 96%             | 11%                 | 10%               | 80                           | 904                        | 94%             | 19%                 | 13%               |
| Woonsocket             | 170                          | 1,291                      | 91%             | 15%                 | 31%               | 209                          | 1,485                      | 86%             | 14%                 | 42%               |
| Charter Schools        | 25                           | 1,160                      | 97%             | 8%                  | 5%                | 143                          | 1,882                      | 87%             | 14%                 | 28%               |
| State-Operated Schools | 16                           | 16                         | 99%             | 0%                  | 0%                | 282                          | 1,690                      | 92%             | 17%                 | 24%               |
| UCAP                   | 11                           | 119                        | 87%             | 14%                 | 49%               | *                            | 19                         | 87%             | 26%                 | 37%               |
| Four Core Cities       | 1,363                        | 9,363                      | 92%             | 15%                 | 25%               | 1,983                        | 10,877                     | 87%             | 15%                 | 42%               |
| Remainder of State     | 977                          | 22,315                     | 95%             | 13%                 | 11%               | 1,913                        | 28,254                     | 93%             | 14%                 | 19%               |
| Rhode Island           | 2,392                        | 32,973                     | 94%             | 13%                 | 15%               | 4,324                        | 42,772                     | 91%             | 14%                 | 26%               |

## Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Rhode Island Department of Education, 2015-2016 school year.

Attendance rates are calculated by dividing the state-calculated "average days of attendance" by the "average days of membership."

Chronic absence rates are based on attendance patterns for students who were enrolled in a district for at least 90 days. A total of 2,392 Rhode Island middle school students and 4,324 high school students were not included in this analysis because they were only enrolled for a short period. The Rhode Island Department of Education excludes these students so that chronic absence issues can be examined separately from student mobility issues. It is likely that more students were excluded from districts with higher student mobility rates.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

Little Compton students attend high school in Portsmouth and Jamestown students attend high school in North Kingstown.

Charter middle schools include Beacon Charter School for the Arts, Blackstone Valley Prep Mayoral Academy, The Compass School, Paul Cuffee Charter School, Highlander Charter School, The Learning Community, Segue Institute for Learning, and Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts. Charter high schools include Beacon Charter High School for the Arts, Blackstone Academy, Blackstone Valley Prep Mayoral Academy, Paul Cuffee Charter School, The Greene School, Highlander Charter School, Rhode Island Nurses Institute Middle College Charter School, Sheila C. "Skip" Nowell Leadership Academy, Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts, and the Village Green Virtual Public Charter School.

State-operated schools include The Rhode Island Training School operated by DCYF, Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center, Rhode Island School for the Deaf, and William M. Davies Jr. Career & Technical High School. UCAP is the Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program.

\*Fewer than 10 students are in this category. Actual numbers are not shown to protect student confidentiality. These numbers are still counted in district totals and in the four core cities, remainder of the state, and state total.

References are on page 189.

# Suspensions

## DEFINITION

*Suspensions* is the number of disciplinary actions per 100 students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade in Rhode Island public schools. Students can receive more than one disciplinary action during the school year. Disciplinary actions include in-school and out-of-school suspensions.

## SIGNIFICANCE

Effective school disciplinary practices promote a safe and respectful school climate, support learning and address the causes of student misbehavior. Punitive disciplinary practices, including “zero tolerance” policies, are largely ineffective and even counterproductive.<sup>1,2</sup> Despite this evidence, out-of-school suspension is a widely used disciplinary technique, both nationally and in Rhode Island. Suspensions are used for minor offenses, such as attendance infractions, and for more serious offenses, such as weapon possession.<sup>3,4</sup>

Suspension usually does not deter students from misbehaving and may actually reinforce negative behavior patterns. Suspended students are more likely than their peers to experience academic failure, juvenile justice system involvement, disengagement from school, isolation from teachers and peers, and dropping out of school. In fact, being

suspended even once in ninth grade is associated with a twofold increase in the likelihood of dropping out.<sup>5,6</sup>

Schools and districts can improve school climate and discipline by developing and enforcing disciplinary policies that set high expectations for student behavior, providing clear, appropriate, and consistent consequences for misbehavior, encouraging the use of alternative disciplinary approaches, such as restorative justice, and ensuring the equitable, appropriate, and limited use of suspensions.<sup>7</sup>

In Rhode Island and nationally, Black, Hispanic, and Native American students are more likely to be suspended than their White peers despite the fact that there is no evidence that these students have more serious patterns of rule breaking. In Rhode Island and nationally, students with disabilities also are more likely to be suspended than their peers.<sup>8,9,10</sup>

Of all disciplinary actions during the 2015-2016 school year, 9% (2,276) involved elementary school students (kindergarten-5th grade), 40% (9,717) involved middle school students (6th-8th grades), and 51% (12,485) involved high school students (9th-12th grades). Kindergartners received 197 disciplinary actions, including 179 out-of-school suspensions.<sup>11</sup>

## Out-of-School Suspensions by Infraction, Rhode Island, 2015-2016

| TYPE OF INFRACTION*            | #     | %   | TYPE OF INFRACTION              | #   | %  |
|--------------------------------|-------|-----|---------------------------------|-----|----|
| Insubordination/Disrespect     | 4,084 | 35% | Alcohol/Drug/Tobacco Offenses   | 586 | 5% |
| Fighting                       | 2,032 | 17% | Arson/Larceny/Robbery/Vandalism | 332 | 3% |
| Disorderly Conduct             | 1,335 | 11% | Weapon Possession               | 207 | 2% |
| Harassment/Intimidation/Threat | 994   | 8%  | Electronic Devices/Technology   | 190 | 2% |
| Assault of Student or Teacher  | 985   | 8%  | Attendance Offenses             | 0   | 0% |
| Obscene/Abusive Language       | 867   | 7%  | Other Offenses                  | 124 | 1% |
| <b>Total</b>                   |       |     | <b>11,736</b>                   |     |    |

Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, 2015-2016 school year. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

\*Harassment offenses include hazing and hate crimes. Assault offenses include sexual assault.

◆ Since the 2010-2011 school year, the number of out-of-school suspensions in Rhode Island has decreased by 52%. During the 2015-2016 school year, out-of-school suspensions accounted for just under half (48%) of disciplinary actions. 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.<sup>12,13</sup>

## Disparities in School Discipline by Special Education Status and Race/Ethnicity, Rhode Island, 2015-2016

|                            | % OF STUDENTS ENROLLED | % OF SUSPENSIONS |
|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Students With Disabilities | 14%                    | 28%              |
| White Students             | 60%                    | 46%              |
| Asian Students             | 3%                     | 1%               |
| Black Students             | 8%                     | 13%              |
| Hispanic Students          | 24%                    | 32%              |
| Native American Students   | 1%                     | 2%               |

Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, 2015-2016 school year. % of suspensions includes in-school and out-of-school suspensions. Detailed data by district is available at [www.ride.ri.gov](http://www.ride.ri.gov)

◆ 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 and requires school districts to identify any racial, ethnic, or special education disparities and to develop a plan to reduce such disparities.<sup>14</sup>

Table 53.

## Disciplinary Actions, Rhode Island School Districts, 2015-2016

| SCHOOL DISTRICT               | TOTAL # OF STUDENTS ENROLLED | TOTAL # OF STUDENTS SUSPENDED IN-SCHOOL | TOTAL # OF STUDENTS SUSPENDED OUT-OF-SCHOOL | OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSIONS PER 100 STUDENTS | TOTAL DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS | ACTIONS PER 100 STUDENTS |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Barrington                    | 3,272                        | *                                       | 31                                          | 1                                          | 39                         | 1                        |
| Bristol Warren                | 3,284                        | 514                                     | 518                                         | 16                                         | 1,032                      | 31                       |
| Burrillville                  | 2,370                        | 81                                      | 154                                         | 6                                          | 235                        | 10                       |
| Central Falls                 | 2,609                        | *                                       | 214                                         | 8                                          | 216                        | 8                        |
| Chariho                       | 3,187                        | 286                                     | 183                                         | 6                                          | 469                        | 15                       |
| Coventry                      | 4,567                        | 505                                     | 98                                          | 2                                          | 603                        | 13                       |
| Cranston                      | 10,121                       | 1,322                                   | 1,127                                       | 11                                         | 2,449                      | 24                       |
| Cumberland                    | 4,508                        | 342                                     | 161                                         | 4                                          | 503                        | 11                       |
| East Greenwich                | 2,396                        | 12                                      | 30                                          | 1                                          | 42                         | 2                        |
| East Providence               | 5,238                        | 0                                       | 624                                         | 12                                         | 624                        | 12                       |
| Exeter-West Greenwich         | 1,604                        | 23                                      | 116                                         | 7                                          | 139                        | 9                        |
| Foster                        | 280                          | *                                       | *                                           | 1                                          | *                          | 2                        |
| Foster-Glocester              | 1,144                        | 188                                     | 97                                          | 8                                          | 285                        | 25                       |
| Glocester                     | 556                          | 0                                       | 0                                           | 0                                          | 0                          | 0                        |
| Jamestown                     | 489                          | *                                       | 17                                          | 3                                          | 19                         | 4                        |
| Johnston                      | 3,188                        | 76                                      | 144                                         | 5                                          | 220                        | 7                        |
| Lincoln                       | 2,953                        | *                                       | 178                                         | 6                                          | 180                        | 6                        |
| Little Compton                | 247                          | *                                       | *                                           | 1                                          | 10                         | 4                        |
| Middletown                    | 2,269                        | 465                                     | 142                                         | 6                                          | 607                        | 27                       |
| Narragansett                  | 1,291                        | 44                                      | 87                                          | 7                                          | 131                        | 10                       |
| New Shoreham                  | 113                          | *                                       | *                                           | 2                                          | *                          | 6                        |
| Newport                       | 2,137                        | *                                       | 408                                         | 19                                         | 417                        | 20                       |
| North Kingstown               | 3,973                        | 282                                     | 73                                          | 2                                          | 355                        | 9                        |
| North Providence              | 3,521                        | 812                                     | 783                                         | 22                                         | 1,595                      | 45                       |
| North Smithfield              | 1,722                        | *                                       | 65                                          | 4                                          | 66                         | 4                        |
| Pawtucket                     | 8,965                        | 19                                      | 396                                         | 4                                          | 415                        | 5                        |
| Portsmouth                    | 2,458                        | 360                                     | 215                                         | 9                                          | 575                        | 23                       |
| Providence                    | 24,106                       | 1,668                                   | 3,488                                       | 14                                         | 5,156                      | 21                       |
| Scituate                      | 1,363                        | 24                                      | *                                           | 1                                          | 31                         | 2                        |
| Smithfield                    | 2,364                        | 98                                      | 61                                          | 3                                          | 159                        | 7                        |
| South Kingstown               | 3,207                        | 509                                     | 96                                          | 3                                          | 605                        | 19                       |
| Tiverton                      | 1,806                        | 0                                       | 97                                          | 5                                          | 97                         | 5                        |
| Warwick                       | 8,941                        | 525                                     | 497                                         | 6                                          | 1,022                      | 11                       |
| West Warwick                  | 3,466                        | 486                                     | 243                                         | 7                                          | 729                        | 21                       |
| Westerly                      | 2,845                        | 57                                      | 149                                         | 5                                          | 206                        | 7                        |
| Woonsocket                    | 5,835                        | 3,622                                   | 785                                         | 13                                         | 4,407                      | 76                       |
| <i>Charter Schools</i>        | <i>6,244</i>                 | <i>114</i>                              | <i>357</i>                                  | <i>6</i>                                   | <i>471</i>                 | <i>8</i>                 |
| <i>State-Operated Schools</i> | <i>1,738</i>                 | <i>272</i>                              | <i>46</i>                                   | <i>3</i>                                   | <i>318</i>                 | <i>18</i>                |
| <i>UCAP</i>                   | <i>137</i>                   | <i>0</i>                                | <i>41</i>                                   | <i>30</i>                                  | <i>41</i>                  | <i>30</i>                |
| <i>Four Core Cities</i>       | <i>41,515</i>                | <i>5,311</i>                            | <i>4,883</i>                                | <i>12</i>                                  | <i>10,194</i>              | <i>25</i>                |
| <i>Remainder of State</i>     | <i>90,879</i>                | <i>7,047</i>                            | <i>6,409</i>                                | <i>7</i>                                   | <i>13,456</i>              | <i>15</i>                |
| <i>Rhode Island</i>           | <i>140,513</i>               | <i>12,744</i>                           | <i>11,736</i>                               | <i>8</i>                                   | <i>24,480</i>              | <i>17</i>                |

### Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Rhode Island Department of Education, 2015-2016 school year.

The out-of-school suspension rate per 100 students is the total number of out-of-school suspensions for the school district at all grade levels (Pre-K through 12th grade), multiplied by 100, and divided by the student enrollment ("average daily membership").

The disciplinary actions rate per 100 students is the total disciplinary actions for the school district at all grade levels (Pre-K through 12th grade), multiplied by 100, and divided by the student enrollment ("average daily membership").

Schools and districts only report suspensions of one day or longer. If an incident involves more than one infraction, schools and districts are asked to code the incident as the most serious type of infraction (e.g., violent offenses involving weapons and offenses involving drugs and alcohol are considered more serious than other offenses). The type of infraction resulting in disciplinary action varies according to school district policy. The type of disciplinary action used for each type of infraction also varies according to school district policy.

\*Fewer than 10 students are in this category. Actual numbers are not shown to protect student confidentiality. These numbers are still counted in district totals and in the four core cities, remainder of the state, and state total.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

Charter schools include: Achievement First Rhode Island, Beacon Charter High School for the Arts, Blackstone Academy, Blackstone Valley Prep, The Compass School, Paul Cuffee Charter School, The Greene School, Highlander Charter School, Hope Academy, International Charter School, Kingston Hill Academy, The Learning Community, Rhode Island Nurses Institute Middle College Charter School, RISE Prep Mayoral Academy, Segue Institute for Learning, Sheila C. "Skip" Nowell Leadership Academy, SouthSide Charter School, Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts, and The Village Green Virtual Public Charter School. State-operated schools include: William M. Davies Jr. Career & Technical High School, DCYF Schools, Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center, and Rhode Island School for the Deaf. UCAP is the Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program.

References are on page 189.

# High School Graduation Rate

## DEFINITION

*High school graduation rate* is the percentage of students who graduate from high school within four years of entering, calculated by dividing the number of students who graduate in four years or fewer by the total number of first-time entering ninth graders (adjusted for transfers in and transfers out during the four years).

## SIGNIFICANCE

High school graduation is the minimum requisite for college and most employment. In Rhode Island, adults without high school diplomas are more likely to be unemployed and have lower median incomes than adults with high school degrees.<sup>1,2</sup> In 2015, 12% of Rhode Island children lived in households headed by a non-high school graduate, lower than the national average of 14%.<sup>3</sup>

Children who attend high-quality preschool programs and read at grade level in elementary school are more likely to graduate from high school than their peers.<sup>4</sup> Early warning and intervention systems use early predictors of dropping out, such as poor attendance, behavior problems, and course failure in math and reading, to identify students who are off-track, so academic supports can be put in place to help students get “on track” for graduation.<sup>5</sup> Supports during the transition from middle to high school have been found to be particularly

important to preventing dropping out.<sup>6,7</sup>

Adopting student-centered learning practices at the high school level can increase achievement and engagement for students from a variety of backgrounds. These practices encourage deeper engagement with school by personalizing learning to a student’s interests, allowing students to take ownership over their work and continue learning outside of the classroom, and pacing learning to match the student’s mastery of the content.<sup>8</sup>

In order to graduate, Rhode Island students up through the Class of 2020 must demonstrate proficiency in English language arts, math, science, social studies, the arts, and technology and complete at least 20 courses and two performance-based assessments. Students in the Class of 2021 and later must complete one performance-based assessment and can earn Council designations, including a Commissioner’s Seal, Seal of Biliteracy, and Pathway Endorsements.<sup>9,10</sup>

| High School Graduation Rates |           |
|------------------------------|-----------|
|                              | 2014-2015 |
| RI                           | 83%       |
| US                           | 83%       |
| National Rank*               | 29th      |
| New England Rank**           | 6th       |

\*1st is best; 50th is worst

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

Source: National Center for Education Statistics. (2016). *Table 1*. Retrieved February 17, 2017, from [www.nces.ed.gov](http://www.nces.ed.gov)

## Rhode Island Four-Year High School Graduation and Dropout Rates, by Student Subgroup, Class of 2016

|                               | COHORT SIZE   | DROPOUT RATE | % COMPLETED GED | % OF STUDENTS STILL IN SCHOOL | FOUR-YEAR GRADUATION RATE |
|-------------------------------|---------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Female Students               | 5,347         | 6%           | 1%              | 4%                            | 88%                       |
| Male Students                 | 5,437         | 10%          | 2%              | 5%                            | 83%                       |
| English Language Learners     | 734           | 17%          | <1%             | 6%                            | 77%                       |
| Students With Disabilities    | 1,676         | 18%          | 2%              | 17%                           | 63%                       |
| Students Without Disabilities | 9,108         | 7%           | 1%              | 3%                            | 89%                       |
| Low-Income Students           | 5,700         | 13%          | 2%              | 7%                            | 79%                       |
| Higher-Income Students        | 5,084         | 4%           | 1%              | 2%                            | 93%                       |
| White Students                | 6,779         | 6%           | 2%              | 4%                            | 88%                       |
| Asian Students                | 310           | 3%           | 1%              | 4%                            | 92%                       |
| Black Students                | 936           | 10%          | 1%              | 8%                            | 81%                       |
| Hispanic Students             | 2,390         | 13%          | 1%              | 6%                            | 79%                       |
| Native American               | 85            | 13%          | 1%              | 8%                            | 78%                       |
| <b>ALL STUDENTS</b>           | <b>10,784</b> | <b>8%</b>    | <b>2%</b>       | <b>5%</b>                     | <b>85%</b>                |

Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, Class of 2016. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

- ◆ The Rhode Island four-year graduation rate for the Class of 2016 was 85%, up from 70% for the Class of 2007 (the first class for which the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) began calculating graduation rates using a cohort formula).<sup>11</sup>
- ◆ Poverty is associated with the likelihood of dropping out.<sup>12</sup> Students in Rhode Island’s four core cities (15% drop out rate), where child poverty is the highest, are three times more likely to drop out of high school than students in the remainder of the state (5% drop out rate).<sup>13</sup>

## Rhode Island Five- and Six-Year High School Graduation Rates

- ◆ Rhode Island calculates five- and six-year graduation rates to recognize that graduation is an accomplishment regardless of the time it takes. Of the 11,324 Rhode Island students who enrolled in ninth grade in 2010, 9,151 (80.8%) graduated in four years in 2014, 424 (3.7%) graduated in five years in 2015, and 55 (<1%) graduated in six years in 2016.<sup>14</sup>
- ◆ Of the 424 students who graduated in five years in 2015, 179 (42%) were students with disabilities. Of the 55 students who graduated in six years in 2016, 31 (56%) were students with disabilities.<sup>15</sup>

# High School Graduation Rate

Table 54.

## High School Graduation Rates, Rhode Island, Class of 2016

| SCHOOL DISTRICT                                                 | FOUR-YEAR COHORT RATES  |              |                 |                   |                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
|                                                                 | # OF STUDENTS IN COHORT | DROPOUT RATE | % COMPLETED GED | % STILL IN SCHOOL | FOUR-YEAR GRADUATION RATE |
| Barrington                                                      | 210                     | 1%           | <1%             | 3%                | 95%                       |
| Bristol Warren                                                  | 235                     | 3%           | 3%              | 4%                | 90%                       |
| Burrillville                                                    | 180                     | 12%          | 2%              | 4%                | 82%                       |
| Central Falls                                                   | 181                     | 19%          | 0%              | 9%                | 72%                       |
| Chariho                                                         | 282                     | 8%           | 1%              | 2%                | 88%                       |
| Coventry                                                        | 374                     | 3%           | 2%              | 3%                | 93%                       |
| Cranston                                                        | 801                     | 3%           | 2%              | 6%                | 88%                       |
| Cumberland                                                      | 327                     | 3%           | 1%              | 4%                | 92%                       |
| East Greenwich                                                  | 200                     | 1%           | 1%              | 3%                | 96%                       |
| East Providence                                                 | 405                     | 10%          | 1%              | 3%                | 86%                       |
| Exeter-West Greenwich                                           | 137                     | 1%           | 1%              | 3%                | 94%                       |
| Foster-Glocester                                                | 184                     | 7%           | 1%              | 3%                | 90%                       |
| Johnston                                                        | 249                     | 4%           | 2%              | 5%                | 89%                       |
| Lincoln                                                         | 250                     | 4%           | 1%              | 2%                | 93%                       |
| Middletown                                                      | 152                     | 7%           | 3%              | 4%                | 86%                       |
| Narragansett                                                    | 98                      | 5%           | 1%              | 5%                | 89%                       |
| Newport                                                         | 163                     | 12%          | 2%              | 1%                | 85%                       |
| North Kingstown                                                 | 354                     | 5%           | 2%              | 6%                | 87%                       |
| North Providence                                                | 271                     | 3%           | 3%              | 1%                | 93%                       |
| North Smithfield                                                | 134                     | 4%           | 1%              | 0%                | 94%                       |
| Pawtucket                                                       | 525                     | 10%          | 1%              | 5%                | 85%                       |
| Portsmouth                                                      | 240                     | 10%          | <1%             | 2%                | 88%                       |
| Providence                                                      | 1,659                   | 14%          | 1%              | 6%                | 79%                       |
| Scituate                                                        | 129                     | 3%           | 0%              | 3%                | 94%                       |
| Smithfield                                                      | 196                     | 5%           | 1%              | 1%                | 93%                       |
| South Kingstown                                                 | 293                     | 7%           | 1%              | 4%                | 88%                       |
| Tiverton                                                        | 151                     | 7%           | 1%              | 5%                | 87%                       |
| Warwick                                                         | 706                     | 6%           | 3%              | 4%                | 87%                       |
| West Warwick                                                    | 252                     | 10%          | 2%              | 2%                | 87%                       |
| Westerly                                                        | 208                     | 3%           | 0%              | 7%                | 90%                       |
| Woonsocket                                                      | 395                     | 21%          | 2%              | 7%                | 70%                       |
| <i>Beacon Charter High School for the Arts</i>                  | 57                      | 4%           | 0%              | 0%                | 96%                       |
| <i>Blackstone Academy</i>                                       | 40                      | 0%           | 0%              | 0%                | 100%                      |
| <i>Paul Cuffee Charter School</i>                               | 65                      | 9%           | 0%              | 3%                | 88%                       |
| <i>The Greene School</i>                                        | 33                      | 3%           | 0%              | 3%                | 94%                       |
| <i>Sheila "Skip" Nowell Leadership Academy</i>                  | 64                      | 50%          | 2%              | 44%               | 5%                        |
| <i>Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts</i>                  | 25                      | 0%           | 4%              | 0%                | 96%                       |
| <i>Village Green Virtual Public Charter School</i>              | 54                      | 13%          | 0%              | 7%                | 80%                       |
| <i>William M. Davies Jr. Career &amp; Technical High School</i> | 183                     | 5%           | 1%              | 0%                | 95%                       |
| <i>DCYF Schools</i>                                             | 55                      | 53%          | 33%             | 7%                | 7%                        |
| <i>Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center</i>        | 194                     | 6%           | 1%              | 1%                | 92%                       |
| <i>Four Core Cities</i>                                         | 2,760                   | 15%          | 1%              | 6%                | 78%                       |
| <i>Remainder of State</i>                                       | 7,191                   | 5%           | 2%              | 4%                | 89%                       |
| <i>Rhode Island</i>                                             | 10,784                  | 8%           | 2%              | 5%                | 85%                       |

### Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Rhode Island Department of Education, Class of 2016.

The 2016 four-year cohort graduation rate is the number of students who graduate in four years or fewer divided by the total number of students in the cohort. The cohort is calculated as the number of first-time entering ninth graders in 2012-2013 adjusted for transfers in and transfers out during the course of the four years. The cohort dropout rate is calculated the same way as the graduation rate, but the numerator is the number of students who drop out or whose status is unknown at the end of four years. Separate rates are calculated for the percentage of students who are retained in high school and therefore are taking more than four years to graduate and for the percentage of students who received their GED within four years instead of graduating with a traditional diploma.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

Students from Little Compton attend high school in Portsmouth, and students from Jamestown attend high school in North Kingstown. DCYF includes students attending DCYF alternative schools.

Rhode Island Nurses Institute Middle College is not reported because these students generally complete their course of study in more than four years. New Shoreham and Rhode Island School for the Deaf are not reported because there are fewer than 10 students in these cohorts. These students are included in the state total.

### References

- <sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015. Table S2301.
- <sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015. Table B20004.
- <sup>3</sup> The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, [datacenter.kidscount.org](http://datacenter.kidscount.org)
- <sup>4,7,12</sup> Shore, R. & Shore, B. (2009). *KIDS COUNT indicator brief: Reducing the high school dropout rate*. Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation.
- <sup>5,6</sup> DePaoli, J. L., Balfanz, R., & Bridgeland, J. (2016). *Building a grad nation: Progress and challenge in raising high school graduation rates*. Retrieved February 17, 2017, from [www.americaspromise.org](http://www.americaspromise.org)

(continued on page 189)

# College Preparation and Access

## DEFINITION

*College preparation and access* is the percentage of Rhode Island high school seniors who graduate and go on to college (i.e., enroll in a two-year or four-year college) immediately or within six months of graduation.

## SIGNIFICANCE

By 2020, 71% of jobs in Rhode Island will require post-secondary education beyond high school.<sup>1</sup> Between 2011 and 2015 in Rhode Island, adults with high school diplomas were almost three times more likely to be unemployed as those with bachelor's degrees or higher.<sup>2</sup> During that same period, the median annual income for adults with high school diplomas was \$31,196, compared to \$51,769 for adults with bachelor's degrees.<sup>3</sup>

Many students, low-income students in particular, face barriers to college enrollment and success, such as insufficient academic preparation, difficulty navigating the application and financial aid processes, and the high cost of college. States can help address these barriers and improve college access by ensuring that all students have access to advanced coursework, including Advanced Placement (AP) courses and dual and concurrent enrollment; take college entrance exams, such as the SATs; complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA); get

adequate counseling to enroll in college and access financial aid; and that financial aid is targeted strategically to those students with the greatest needs.<sup>4</sup>

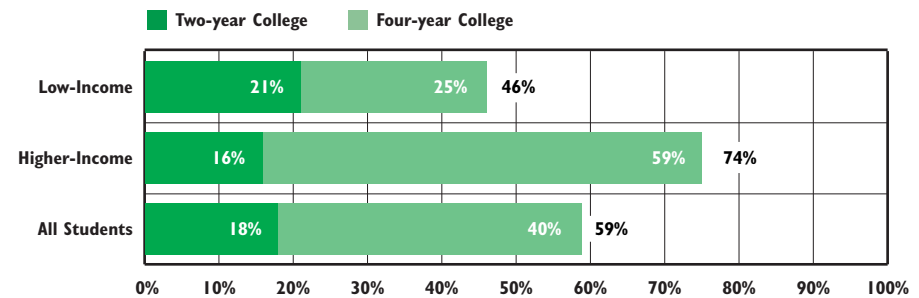
Students who participate in upper-level honors and AP courses are likely to attend and succeed in college.<sup>5</sup> During the 2015-2016 school year, 5,066 Rhode Island public school students took an AP course, 8% more than the previous year.<sup>6</sup>

Dual and concurrent enrollment allows students to earn both high school and college credit, reduces the time and expenses required to earn a college degree, and increases high school and college achievement. During the 2015-2016 school year, 3,807 Rhode Island public high school students (9%) participated in dual or concurrent enrollment.<sup>7</sup>

In 2016, average SAT scores for Rhode Island public school students were 478 in critical reading, 478 in math, and 465 in writing.<sup>8</sup> Students with scores of 500 or better in each section are more likely to enroll in and succeed in college.<sup>9</sup>

Seniors who have completed a FAFSA by May and been accepted to a four-year college are 50% more likely to enroll than students who have not completed their FAFSA.<sup>10</sup> Across Rhode Island school districts, FAFSA completion rates range from a low of 35-40% to a high of 80% or greater.<sup>11</sup>

**Immediate College Enrollment by District Type and Type of College, Class of 2015, Rhode Island**



Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, Class of 2015. Percentages may not sum exactly due to rounding.

◆ Fifty-nine percent of Rhode Island students who graduated from high school in the Class of 2015 immediately enrolled in college. However, there are large gaps in college access, particularly four-year college enrollment, between low- and higher-income students. Among Rhode Island students who graduated from high school in 2015, 25% of low-income students immediately enrolled in a four-year college, compared to 59% of higher-income students.<sup>12</sup>

◆ Low-income and first-generation college students are more likely to go to college when they attend high schools with strong college-going cultures, in which teachers encourage students to attend college, set high expectations, make sure that students are academically prepared, and help them with the application and financial aid processes.<sup>13</sup>

◆ For states, improving college access will require improvements at all points in the early education to college education system, including increasing access to high-quality preschool, implementing research-driven dropout prevention programs, improving the quality of the K-12 education system, and aligning it with college and career expectations, simplifying the college admission process, and making college affordable.<sup>14</sup>

◆ While students from families in the top income quintile must pay or finance (even after grant aid) an amount equal to 17% of their family income to attend a four-year college, students from families in the lowest income quintile must pay or finance an amount equal to 76% of their families' annual income. Low-income students attend college at much lower rates, attend colleges of lower quality, and struggle to pay off the debt they accrue.<sup>15</sup>

Table 55.

## College Preparation and Access, Rhode Island

| SCHOOL DISTRICT                                                 | TOTAL 12TH GRADE ENROLLMENT OCT. 2015 | 4-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE, 2016 | % OF 12TH GRADERS WHO FILLED OUT THE FAFSA, 2016 | AVERAGE SAT SCORE IN CRITICAL READING, 2016 | AVERAGE SAT SCORE IN MATH, 2016 | AVERAGE SAT SCORE IN WRITING, 2016 | # OF STUDENTS TAKING THE SATS, 2016 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Barrington                                                      | 225                                   | 95%                                      | 55-59%                                           | 586                                         | 596                             | 572                                | 185                                 |
| Bristol Warren                                                  | 230                                   | 90%                                      | 55-59%                                           | 529                                         | 534                             | 537                                | 119                                 |
| Burrillville                                                    | 174                                   | 82%                                      | 50-54%                                           | 485                                         | 497                             | 474                                | 82                                  |
| Central Falls                                                   | 183                                   | 72%                                      | 35-39%                                           | 344                                         | 370                             | 326                                | 101                                 |
| Chariho                                                         | 267                                   | 88%                                      | 50-54%                                           | 512                                         | 504                             | 489                                | 155                                 |
| Coventry                                                        | 386                                   | 93%                                      | 50-54%                                           | 493                                         | 485                             | 479                                | 215                                 |
| Cranston                                                        | 834                                   | 88%                                      | 60-64%                                           | 489                                         | 479                             | 476                                | 449                                 |
| Cumberland                                                      | 349                                   | 92%                                      | 60-64%                                           | 497                                         | 508                             | 483                                | 229                                 |
| East Greenwich                                                  | 211                                   | 96%                                      | 60-64%                                           | 552                                         | 582                             | 559                                | 169                                 |
| East Providence                                                 | 417                                   | 86%                                      | 50-54%                                           | 459                                         | 447                             | 435                                | 216                                 |
| Exeter-West Greenwich                                           | 143                                   | 94%                                      | 60-64%                                           | 515                                         | 512                             | 499                                | 93                                  |
| Foster-Glocester                                                | 186                                   | 90%                                      | 50-54%                                           | 505                                         | 503                             | 473                                | 105                                 |
| Johnston                                                        | 264                                   | 89%                                      | 60-64%                                           | 458                                         | 461                             | 455                                | 136                                 |
| Lincoln                                                         | 253                                   | 93%                                      | 55-59%                                           | 523                                         | 523                             | 496                                | 168                                 |
| Middletown                                                      | 149                                   | 86%                                      | 50-54%                                           | 510                                         | 528                             | 502                                | 107                                 |
| Narragansett                                                    | 102                                   | 89%                                      | 50-54%                                           | 513                                         | 509                             | 494                                | 68                                  |
| Newport                                                         | 142                                   | 85%                                      | 60-64%                                           | 448                                         | 445                             | 431                                | 97                                  |
| North Kingstown                                                 | 387                                   | 87%                                      | 70-74%                                           | 537                                         | 542                             | 523                                | 271                                 |
| North Providence                                                | 279                                   | 93%                                      | 45-49%                                           | 470                                         | 466                             | 462                                | 126                                 |
| North Smithfield                                                | 139                                   | 94%                                      | 60-64%                                           | 536                                         | 542                             | 504                                | 89                                  |
| Pawtucket                                                       | 573                                   | 85%                                      | 45-49%                                           | 412                                         | 409                             | 399                                | 290                                 |
| Portsmouth                                                      | 236                                   | 88%                                      | 55-59%                                           | 524                                         | 523                             | 513                                | 160                                 |
| Providence                                                      | 1,436                                 | 79%                                      | 55-59%                                           | 413                                         | 413                             | 401                                | 937                                 |
| Scituate                                                        | 133                                   | 94%                                      | 65-69%                                           | 507                                         | 517                             | 513                                | 95                                  |
| Smithfield                                                      | 189                                   | 93%                                      | 55-59%                                           | 488                                         | 501                             | 483                                | 138                                 |
| South Kingstown                                                 | 306                                   | 88%                                      | 65-69%                                           | 536                                         | 551                             | 528                                | 217                                 |
| Tiverton                                                        | 151                                   | 87%                                      | 50-54%                                           | 492                                         | 475                             | 470                                | 96                                  |
| Warwick                                                         | 734                                   | 87%                                      | 50-54%                                           | 491                                         | 478                             | 480                                | 357                                 |
| West Warwick                                                    | 219                                   | 87%                                      | 45-49%                                           | 466                                         | 470                             | 444                                | 115                                 |
| Westerly                                                        | 221                                   | 90%                                      | 55-59%                                           | 530                                         | 529                             | 515                                | 128                                 |
| Woonsocket                                                      | 382                                   | 70%                                      | 40-44%                                           | 453                                         | 453                             | 441                                | 122                                 |
| <i>Beacon Charter High School for the Arts</i>                  | 58                                    | 96%                                      | 75-79%                                           | 494                                         | 459                             | 468                                | 44                                  |
| <i>Blackstone Academy</i>                                       | 47                                    | 100%                                     | >80%                                             | 432                                         | 430                             | 421                                | 42                                  |
| <i>Paul Cuffee Charter School</i>                               | 65                                    | 88%                                      | 60-64%                                           | 371                                         | 385                             | 385                                | 51                                  |
| <i>The Greene School</i>                                        | 35                                    | 94%                                      | 55-59%                                           | 526                                         | 459                             | 481                                | 18                                  |
| <i>RI Nurses Institute Middle College</i>                       | 94                                    | NA                                       | <20%                                             | 414                                         | 389                             | 397                                | 35                                  |
| <i>Sheila "Skip" Nowell Leadership Academy</i>                  | 44                                    | NA                                       | <20%                                             | 390                                         | 330                             | 373                                | *                                   |
| <i>Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts</i>                  | 24                                    | 96%                                      | >80%                                             | 358                                         | 352                             | 360                                | 27                                  |
| <i>Village Green Virtual Public Charter School</i>              | 58                                    | 80%                                      | 50-54%                                           | 420                                         | 415                             | 412                                | 44                                  |
| <i>William M. Davies Jr. Career &amp; Technical High School</i> | 195                                   | 95%                                      | 40-44%                                           | 442                                         | 445                             | 422                                | 92                                  |
| <i>DCYF Schools</i>                                             | 12                                    | 7%                                       | NA                                               | NA                                          | NA                              | NA                                 | NA                                  |
| <i>Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center</i>        | 197                                   | 92%                                      | 50-54%                                           | 455                                         | 409                             | 423                                | 17                                  |
| <i>Four Core Cities</i>                                         | 2,574                                 | 78%                                      | NA                                               | NA                                          | NA                              | NA                                 | 1,450                               |
| <i>Remainder of State</i>                                       | 7,339                                 | 89%                                      | NA                                               | NA                                          | NA                              | NA                                 | 4,475                               |
| <i>Rhode Island</i>                                             | 10,752                                | 85%                                      | NA                                               | 478                                         | 478                             | 465                                | 6,303                               |

### Source of Data for Table/Methodology

12th grade enrollment data (October 1, 2015) and high school graduation rates are from the Rhode Island Department of Education.

The high school graduation rate is the number of students who graduate in four years or fewer divided by the total number of students who started 9th grade in 2012-2013, adjusted for transfers in and transfers out.

% of 12th graders who filled out the FAFSA is from U.S. Department of Education, Federal Student Aid. (2015). *FAFSA completion by high school*. Retrieved March 8, 2017, from studentaid.ed.gov.

# of students taking the SAT is from the Rhode Island Department of Education and may include 11th and 12th graders.

High school graduation rate and % of 12th graders taking the SAT include all district students, including students who are placed out of district, so district high school graduation rate and SAT participation data may differ from data reported by high school even in districts with only one high school.

NA indicates that data are not available either because data were not collected or reported or because the number of students was too small to report. New Shoreham and Rhode Island School for the Deaf are not reported because data reported would reflect fewer than 10 students. These students are included in the remainder of state and state totals as appropriate.

Students from Little Compton attend high school in Portsmouth and students from Jamestown attend high school in North Kingstown. Graduation rates for Rhode Island Nurses Institute Middle College and Sheila "Skip" Nowell Leadership Academy are not reported because these students generally complete their course of study in more than four years. DCYF includes students attending DCYF alternative schools.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

### References

<sup>1</sup> Carnevale, A. P., Smith, N., & Strohl, J. (2013). *Recovery: Job growth and education requirements through 2020* (State report). Washington, DC: Georgetown University, Center on Education and the Workforce.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015. Table S2301.

(continued on page 189)

# College Enrollment and Completion

## DEFINITION

*College enrollment and completion* is the percentage of Rhode Island public high school graduates who enroll in a two- or four-year college within five years of high school graduation who earn a college diploma (an associate's degree or bachelor's degree) within six years of enrollment.<sup>1</sup>

## SIGNIFICANCE

By 2020, 71% of jobs in Rhode Island will require post-secondary education beyond high school, and yet only 34% of Rhode Island adults between the ages of 25 and 64 have a bachelor's degree or higher, and an additional 29% have some college or an associate's degree.<sup>2,3</sup> Between 2011 and 2015 in Rhode Island, 10.3% of adults with a high school diploma were unemployed, compared to 6.9% of those with some college or an associate's degree and 3.6% of those with a bachelor's degree or higher.<sup>4</sup> During that same period, the median annual income for adults with a high school diploma was \$31,196, compared to \$36,786 for adults with some college or an associate's degree and \$51,769 for adults with a bachelor's degree.<sup>5</sup>

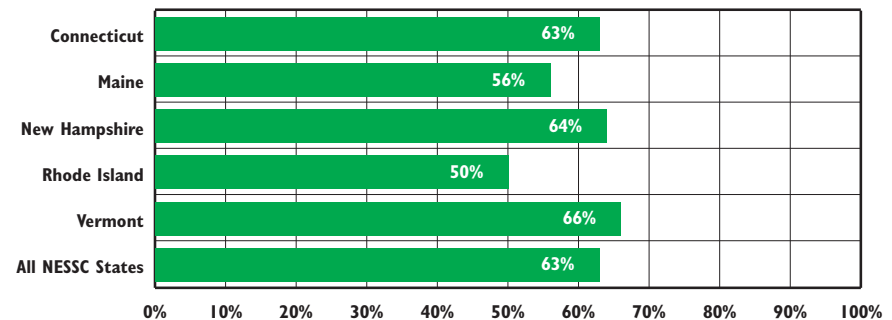
Students must complete college and earn a degree to accrue the benefits of a college education, in terms of increased income and reduced unemployment. While college enrollment rates have

doubled in recent decades, there are still large gaps in the percentage of students who enroll in college, the types of colleges students enroll in, and the percentage who attain college degrees across different income groups.<sup>6</sup> In the U.S., two-thirds of low-income students attend community colleges and for-profit institutions, many of which have low completion rates. Low-income students are also more likely to delay going to college and to have breaks in enrollment, both of which lower their chances of completing their college degrees.<sup>7</sup>

Fifty-nine percent of Rhode Island students who graduated from high school in the Class of 2015 immediately enrolled in college, but by the third semester of college, only 46% of these high school graduates were still enrolled in college.<sup>8</sup>

Low-income and first-generation college students often arrive at college less academically prepared than other students. They can benefit from a wide range of academic and social supports, including summer transition programs, peer-mentored and peer-facilitated programs that offer tutoring and other academic support, learning communities that allow a group of students to enroll in two or more classes together so they can establish faculty and peer relationships that support their success, personal and career counseling, mentoring, and/or referrals to social services.<sup>9,10,11</sup>

**College Completion, New England Secondary School Consortium States (NESSC), 2009 Cohort**



Source: *Common Data Project: 2016 annual report, school year 2014-2015*. (2016). Retrieved December 13, 2016, from <http://newenglandssc.org>

- ◆ Fifty percent of Rhode Island public high school graduates who enrolled in a two- or four-year college in 2009 earned a college diploma within six years. Rhode Island's completion rate is the lowest of all of the states in the New England Secondary School Consortium. In Rhode Island, there are large gaps in college completion between low-income and higher-income students, with 29% of low-income students completing college within six years, compared to 59% of higher-income students.<sup>12</sup>
- ◆ Many students who enroll in college do not complete their degree. Improving college access and completion will require that states make improvements at all points in the early education to college education system, including increasing access to high-quality preschool, implementing research-driven dropout prevention programs, aligning the K-12 education system with college and career expectations, simplifying the college admission process, making college affordable, and providing student support programs that increase college completion rates.<sup>13</sup> State policies that reward colleges for meeting performance goals, transform remediation practices, encourage full-time college attendance, help students balance work and school, and support on-time graduation could further increase college completion rates.<sup>14</sup>
- ◆ In 2017, at least 15 governors, including Rhode Island's, identified college affordability as a key priority, outlining plans to control tuition rates, expand scholarships, and offer free community college and technical college.<sup>15</sup>

# College Enrollment and Completion

Table 56.

College Enrollment and Completion, Rhode Island

| SCHOOL DISTRICT                                                 | # OF STUDENTS WHO GRADUATED FROM HIGH SCHOOL IN 2015 | # OF 2015 HS GRADUATES WHO ENROLLED IN COLLEGE WITHIN 6 MONTHS | % OF 2015 HS GRADUATES WHO ENROLLED IN COLLEGE WITHIN 6 MONTHS | # OF 2015 HS GRADUATES WHO PERSISTED (ENROLLED FOR A THIRD SEMESTER) | % OF 2015 HS GRADUATES WHO PERSISTED (ENROLLED FOR A THIRD SEMESTER) |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Barrington                                                      | 279                                                  | 231                                                            | 83%                                                            | 198                                                                  | 71%                                                                  |
| Bristol Warren                                                  | 234                                                  | 149                                                            | 64%                                                            | 121                                                                  | 52%                                                                  |
| Burrillville                                                    | 171                                                  | 96                                                             | 56%                                                            | 79                                                                   | 46%                                                                  |
| Central Falls                                                   | 210                                                  | 74                                                             | 35%                                                            | 42                                                                   | 20%                                                                  |
| Charlino                                                        | 298                                                  | 171                                                            | 57%                                                            | 138                                                                  | 46%                                                                  |
| Coventry                                                        | 384                                                  | 248                                                            | 65%                                                            | 196                                                                  | 51%                                                                  |
| Cranston                                                        | 762                                                  | 481                                                            | 63%                                                            | 355                                                                  | 47%                                                                  |
| Cumberland                                                      | 337                                                  | 244                                                            | 72%                                                            | 199                                                                  | 59%                                                                  |
| East Greenwich                                                  | 193                                                  | 153                                                            | 79%                                                            | 136                                                                  | 70%                                                                  |
| East Providence                                                 | 349                                                  | 205                                                            | 59%                                                            | 145                                                                  | 42%                                                                  |
| Exeter-West Greenwich                                           | 127                                                  | 79                                                             | 62%                                                            | 71                                                                   | 56%                                                                  |
| Foster-Glocester                                                | 149                                                  | 92                                                             | 62%                                                            | 78                                                                   | 52%                                                                  |
| Johnston                                                        | 173                                                  | 103                                                            | 60%                                                            | 85                                                                   | 49%                                                                  |
| Lincoln                                                         | 258                                                  | 180                                                            | 70%                                                            | 149                                                                  | 58%                                                                  |
| Middletown                                                      | 162                                                  | 109                                                            | 67%                                                            | 84                                                                   | 52%                                                                  |
| Narragansett                                                    | 117                                                  | 88                                                             | 75%                                                            | 72                                                                   | 62%                                                                  |
| Newport                                                         | 125                                                  | 57                                                             | 46%                                                            | 44                                                                   | 35%                                                                  |
| North Kingstown                                                 | 316                                                  | 239                                                            | 76%                                                            | 218                                                                  | 69%                                                                  |
| North Providence                                                | 244                                                  | 155                                                            | 64%                                                            | 115                                                                  | 47%                                                                  |
| North Smithfield                                                | 140                                                  | 101                                                            | 72%                                                            | 91                                                                   | 65%                                                                  |
| Pawtucket                                                       | 480                                                  | 200                                                            | 42%                                                            | 136                                                                  | 28%                                                                  |
| Portsmouth                                                      | 220                                                  | 167                                                            | 76%                                                            | 145                                                                  | 66%                                                                  |
| Providence                                                      | 1,469                                                | 676                                                            | 46%                                                            | 441                                                                  | 30%                                                                  |
| Scituate                                                        | 112                                                  | 84                                                             | 75%                                                            | 73                                                                   | 65%                                                                  |
| Smithfield                                                      | 158                                                  | 123                                                            | 78%                                                            | 101                                                                  | 64%                                                                  |
| South Kingstown                                                 | 231                                                  | 165                                                            | 71%                                                            | 135                                                                  | 58%                                                                  |
| Tiverton                                                        | 125                                                  | 82                                                             | 66%                                                            | 68                                                                   | 54%                                                                  |
| Warwick                                                         | 657                                                  | 396                                                            | 60%                                                            | 316                                                                  | 48%                                                                  |
| West Warwick                                                    | 218                                                  | 110                                                            | 50%                                                            | 88                                                                   | 40%                                                                  |
| Westerly                                                        | 229                                                  | 142                                                            | 62%                                                            | 117                                                                  | 51%                                                                  |
| Woonsocket                                                      | 325                                                  | 145                                                            | 45%                                                            | 100                                                                  | 31%                                                                  |
| <i>Beacon Charter High School for the Arts</i>                  | <i>54</i>                                            | <i>30</i>                                                      | <i>56%</i>                                                     | <i>21</i>                                                            | <i>39%</i>                                                           |
| <i>Blackstone Academy</i>                                       | <i>38</i>                                            | <i>23</i>                                                      | <i>61%</i>                                                     | <i>17</i>                                                            | <i>45%</i>                                                           |
| <i>The Greene School</i>                                        | <i>33</i>                                            | <i>23</i>                                                      | <i>70%</i>                                                     | <i>15</i>                                                            | <i>45%</i>                                                           |
| <i>RI Nurses Institute Middle College</i>                       | <i>85</i>                                            | <i>43</i>                                                      | <i>51%</i>                                                     | <i>21</i>                                                            | <i>25%</i>                                                           |
| <i>Sheila "Skip" Nowell Leadership Academy</i>                  | <i>36</i>                                            | <i>10</i>                                                      | <i>28%</i>                                                     | <i>*</i>                                                             | <i>*</i>                                                             |
| <i>William M. Davies Jr. Career &amp; Technical High School</i> | <i>196</i>                                           | <i>105</i>                                                     | <i>54%</i>                                                     | <i>80</i>                                                            | <i>41%</i>                                                           |
| <i>Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center</i>        | <i>208</i>                                           | <i>100</i>                                                     | <i>48%</i>                                                     | <i>62</i>                                                            | <i>30%</i>                                                           |
| <i>Four Core Cities</i>                                         | <i>2,484</i>                                         | <i>1,095</i>                                                   | <i>44%</i>                                                     | <i>719</i>                                                           | <i>29%</i>                                                           |
| <i>Remainder of State</i>                                       | <i>6,780</i>                                         | <i>4,457</i>                                                   | <i>66%</i>                                                     | <i>3,624</i>                                                         | <i>53%</i>                                                           |
| <i>Rhode Island</i>                                             | <i>9,994</i>                                         | <i>5,887</i>                                                   | <i>59%</i>                                                     | <i>4,564</i>                                                         | <i>46%</i>                                                           |

## Source of Data for Table/Methodology

# of students who graduated from high school in 2015, # of 2015 high school graduates who enrolled in college within six months, and # of 2015 high school graduates who enrolled in college within six months and persisted (were enrolled for a third semester) are all from Rhode Island Department of Education, Class of 2015. Percentages may not sum exactly due to rounding.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

New Shoreham, Rhode Island School for the Deaf, and Village Green Virtual Public Charter School are not reported because there are fewer than 10 students in these cohorts. Data on Trinity Academy for the Performing Arts are not included because it graduated its first class in 2016. Data on DCYF and Paul Cuffee Charter School were not available.

\*Fewer than 10 students are in this category. Actual numbers are not shown to protect student confidentiality. These numbers are still counted in four core cities, remainder of the state, and state totals.

## References

<sup>1</sup> Beginning in 2009, the five state education agencies participating in the New England Secondary School Consortium (NESSC) began collecting, calculating, and reporting key data outcomes using consistent methodologies to allow comparisons. NESSC defines college completion as the percentage of the first-time college freshman cohort (i.e., students who enrolled for the first time in college who earned a high school diploma from a public high school in the state) who earn a two- or four-year college diploma within six years.

<sup>2</sup> Carnevale, A. P., Smith, N., & Strohl, J. (2013). *Recovery: Job growth and education requirements through 2020 (State report)*. Washington, DC: Georgetown University, Center on Education and the Workforce.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015. Table B23006.

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015. Table S2301.

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015. Table B20004.

(continued on page 189)

# Teens Not in School and Not Working

## DEFINITION

*Teens not in school and not working* is the percentage of teens ages 16 to 19 who are not enrolled in school, not in the Armed Forces, and not employed. Teens who are recent high school graduates and who are unemployed, and teens who have dropped out of high school and are jobless are included.

## SIGNIFICANCE

School and work help teens acquire the skills, knowledge, experience, and supports they need to become productive adults. Youth who drop out of school and do not become a part of the workforce are at risk of experiencing negative outcomes as they transition from adolescence to adulthood. Teens in low-income families, teens who drop out of school, teen mothers, and teens with disabilities have the highest rates of disconnection from both school and work.

Disconnected youth are more likely to live in poverty, experience poor physical and mental health, have low educational attainment, have a disability, become teen parents, engage in criminal activity, experience difficulties maintaining employment, earn low wages, and need public benefits to make ends meet.<sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup>

Adult mentoring, civic engagement, volunteering, out-of-school programs, job training, and school-to-career programs build skills and relationships that lessen the likelihood of teens becoming disconnected from school and work.<sup>6,7,8</sup> Youth who are consistently connected to work and school make the transition to adulthood better than those who are initially connected, later connected, or never connected, regardless of race, ethnicity, or immigration status.<sup>9</sup>

Between 2011 and 2015, an estimated 4,039 (6%) youth ages 16 to 19 in Rhode Island were not in school and not working. Of the youth who were not in school and not working, 56% were males and 44% were females. Fifty-five percent of these youth were high school graduates and 45% had not graduated from high school.<sup>10</sup>

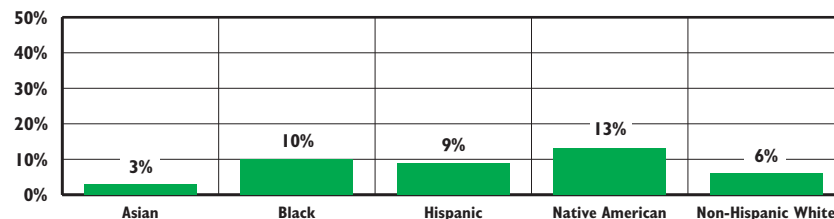
| Teens Not in School and Not Working |      |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| 2015                                |      |
| RI                                  | 7%   |
| US                                  | 7%   |
| National Rank*                      | 20th |
| New England Rank**                  | 5th  |

\*1st is best; 49th is worst

\*\*1st is best; 5th is worst

Source: The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, datacenter.kidscount.org

**Percentage of U.S. Youth Ages 16 to 19, Not in School and Not Working, by Race and Ethnicity, 2015**



Source: The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, datacenter.kidscount.org

◆ In the U.S., minority youth (with the exception of Asian youth) are more likely to be disconnected from school and work than White youth.<sup>11</sup> In 2015 among U.S. youth ages 16 to 19, 13% of Native American youth, 10% of Black youth, and 9% of Hispanic youth were not in school and not working, compared to 6% of White youth and 3% of Asian youth.<sup>12</sup>

◆ In the Providence-Warwick metro area in 2013, 27.2% of Latino youth ages 16 to 24 were disconnected, compared with 16.3% in the U.S.; 9.2% of White youth in this age group were disconnected, compared with 11.3% in the U.S.<sup>13</sup>

◆ The economic recession had a negative impact on the job market for youth and young adults. In 2015, there were almost 10.2 million young people ages 16-29 in the U.S. who were neither working nor enrolled in school.<sup>14</sup>

## Compulsory School Attendance

◆ Rhode Island requires school attendance until age 18. Rhode Island students over age 16 may obtain a waiver from the attendance requirement if they have an alternative learning plan for obtaining a diploma. Plans can include independent study, private instruction, community service, or online coursework and must be developed in consultation with the student, school guidance counselor, school principal, and at least one parent or guardian. Alternative learning plans must be approved by the district superintendent.<sup>15</sup>

◆ As of 2015, 24 states (including Rhode Island) have set compulsory attendance to age 18, 11 states to age 17, and 15 states to age 16.<sup>16</sup>

## Connecting Youth to School and Work

- ◆ Education has a positive impact on the likelihood of finding and maintaining employment. Between 2011 and 2015, the unemployment rate for Rhode Island adults ages 25 to 64 with a bachelor's degree or higher was 3.6%, compared with 10.3% for high school graduates and 14.6% for those with less than a high school diploma.<sup>17</sup>
- ◆ Successful strategies to connect youth to work and school must be comprehensive, including attention to community engagement in schools, early identification of youth at risk of dropping out of school, targeted workforce development programs, and multiple pathways to high school graduation and employment.<sup>18,19</sup>
- ◆ Programs and alternative schools that enable students to earn college credits while working towards their high school degrees can improve high school graduation rates and better prepare students for college completion and high-skill careers.<sup>20</sup>

## Youth Work Experience

- ◆ Work experience during the teen years increases academic achievement, employability, and wages into early adulthood.<sup>21</sup>
- ◆ Public and private investment in summer work programs helps keep adolescents attached to constructive youth development activities, increases employment rates, and helps reduce youth violence.<sup>22,23</sup>
- ◆ Expanding work experience opportunities, internships, and job shadowing programs can help more youth in Rhode Island successfully transition into the workforce. These types of programs can help to motivate students, teach them critical skills, connect them with mentors and positive adult role models, as well as help them to make informed decisions about vocational training, colleges, and careers. Many internship programs allow youth to receive school credit and/or earn money, while gaining important workplace experience.<sup>24,25</sup>

## References

- <sup>1,4,6,11,13</sup> Lewis, K. & Burd-Sharps, S. (2015). *Zeroing in on place and race: Youth disconnection in America's cities*. Brooklyn, NY: Measure of America.
- <sup>2</sup> Fernandes-Alcantara, A. L. (2015). *Disconnected youth: A look at 16 to 24 year olds who are not working or in school*. Washington, DC: Congressional Research Service.
- <sup>3,19</sup> Bridgeland, J. M. & Milano, J. A. (2012). *Opportunity road: The promise and challenge of America's forgotten youth*. Washington, DC: Civic Enterprises & America's Promise Alliance.
- <sup>5</sup> Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics. (2014). *America's young adults: Special issue, 2014*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.
- <sup>7,21</sup> *Youth employment matters! Strengthening the youth-to-work pipeline through high-quality youth employment opportunities – Policy brief*. (2014). Washington, DC: Urban Alliance.
- <sup>8,18</sup> *Youth and work: Restoring teen and young adult connections to opportunity*. (2012). Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation.
- <sup>9</sup> Vericker, T., Pergamit, M., Macomber, J., & Kuehn, D. (2009). *Vulnerable youth and the transition to adulthood: Second-generation Latinos connecting to school and work*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Human Services Policy, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Planning and Evaluation. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office. Retrieved January 10, 2017, from [aspe.hhs.gov](http://aspe.hhs.gov)
- <sup>10</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015. Table B14005.
- <sup>12</sup> The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, [datacenter.kidscount.org](http://datacenter.kidscount.org)
- <sup>14</sup> Desilver, D. (2016). *Millions of young people in U.S. and EU are neither working nor learning*. Washington, DC: Pew Research Center.
- <sup>15</sup> Rhode Island General Law 16-19-1. Enacted by the General Assembly as H-5061 and S-0046 Substitute A in 2011.
- <sup>16</sup> National Center for Education Statistics. (2015). *Table 5.1. Compulsory school attendance laws, minimum and maximum age limits for required free education, by state: 2015*. Retrieved January 10, 2017, from <https://nces.ed.gov/>
- <sup>17</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015. Table S2301.
- <sup>20</sup> Early College Designs. (n.d.). *Reinventing high schools for postsecondary success*. Retrieved January 10, 2017, from [www.jff.org](http://www.jff.org)
- <sup>22</sup> *The Meaningful Youth Employment Initiative: A philanthropic campaign to increase community based jobs, 2016 investment guide*. (2016). Boston, MA: Youth Violence Prevention Funder Learning Collaborative.
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- <sup>24</sup> *FY2016 and FY2017 biennial employment and training plan*. (2014). Cranston, RI: Governor's Workforce Board Rhode Island.
- <sup>25</sup> Adams, C. J. (2013). *Internships help students prepare for workplace*. Retrieved January 10, 2017, from [www.edweek.org](http://www.edweek.org)

**Methodology**

**References**

**Committees**

**Acknowledgements**

# Methodology

The *2017 Rhode Island Kids Count Factbook* examines 72 indicators in five areas that affect the lives of children: Family and Community, Economic Well-Being, Health, Safety, and Education. The information on each indicator is organized as follows:

- ◆ **Definition:** A description of the indicator and what it measures.
- ◆ **Significance:** The relationship of the indicator to child and family well-being.
- ◆ **National Rank and New England Rank:** For those indicators that are included in the Annie E. Casey Foundation's KIDS COUNT publications, the Factbook highlights Rhode Island's rank among the 50 states, as well as trends. The New England Rank highlights Rhode Island's rank among the six New England states – Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont.
- ◆ **City/Town Tables:** Data presented for each of Rhode Island's cities and towns, the state as a whole, and the four core cities.
- ◆ **Four Core Cities Data:** The core cities are the four Rhode Island communities with the highest percentages of children living below the poverty threshold according to the 2011-

2015 American Community Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. They are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket. The core cities are different than in Factbooks prior to 2012, which were identified based on the child poverty rates reported in Census 2000. In Factbooks prior to 2012, the six core cities were Central Falls, Newport, Pawtucket, Providence, West Warwick, and Woonsocket. When core city trends are presented in this Factbook, they are based on the new definition of core cities for all years presented.

- ◆ **Most Recent Available Data:** The Factbook uses the most current, reliable data available for each indicator.

## Numbers

The most direct measure of the scope of a problem is the count of the number of events of concern during a specified time period - e.g., the number of child deaths between 2011 and 2015. Numbers are important in assessing the scope of the problem and in estimating the resources required to address a problem. Numbers are not useful to compare the severity of the problem from one geographic area to another or to compare the extent of the problem in Rhode Island with national standards. For example, a state with more children might have more low birthweight infants due to the larger

number of total births, not due to an increased likelihood of being born with low birthweight. Caution should be used with small numbers in numerators and denominators.

## Rates and Percentages

A rate is a measure of the frequency of an event - e.g., out of every 1,000 live births, how many infants will be breastfed. A percentage is another measure of frequency - e.g., out of every 100 births, how many will be born low birthweight. Rates and percentages take into account the total population of children eligible for an event. They are useful in comparing the severity of the problem from one geographic area to another, to compare with state or national standards, or to look at trends over time.

## Sources of Data and Methodology for Calculating Rates and Percentages

For each indicator, the source of information for the actual number of events of interest (the numerator) is identified within the Source of Data/Methodology section next to the table for that indicator. For each indicator that uses a rate or a percent, the source of data for the total number of children eligible for respective indicator (the denominator) is also noted within the Source of Data/Methodology section. Rates and

percentages are not calculated for cities and towns with small denominators. Rates and percentages based on small denominators are statistically unreliable.

In the indicator for child deaths and teen deaths, and other indicators in which the events are rare, city- and town-level rates are not calculated, as small numbers make these rates statistically unreliable.

## Census Data

There are four sources of U.S. Census Bureau data used in the Factbook: Census 2010, the Current Population Survey, Population Estimates, and the American Community Survey. In all city/town tables that require population statistics, data is from Census 2010 (as is stated in Source sections). Throughout the text portions of each indicator, all four sources are used and the relevant citations provide clarification on which source the data come from.

Starting with the *2012 Rhode Island Kids Count Factbook*, rates that use the child population as the denominator are based on Census 2010. Previous years are based on Census 2000. In instances where Census 2010 data is used in the denominator, caution should be taken when comparing new rates with those for past years, as actual population numbers may have changed. Indicators affected by this change include:

## Margins of Error, Median Family Income, Rhode Island, 2011-2015

| CITY/TOWN          | 2011-2015 MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 |                 |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
|                    | MARGIN OF ERROR                                                        | MARGIN OF ERROR |
| Barrington         | \$146,440                                                              | \$8,389         |
| Bristol            | \$88,547                                                               | \$11,450        |
| Burrillville       | \$76,667                                                               | \$14,820        |
| Central Falls      | \$26,973                                                               | \$4,651         |
| Charlestown        | \$81,083                                                               | \$18,519        |
| Coventry           | \$98,491                                                               | \$9,270         |
| Cranston           | \$81,456                                                               | \$4,126         |
| Cumberland         | \$91,723                                                               | \$15,054        |
| East Greenwich     | \$160,139                                                              | \$21,329        |
| East Providence    | \$54,630                                                               | \$7,447         |
| Exeter             | \$103,644                                                              | \$15,271        |
| Foster             | \$113,750                                                              | \$46,319        |
| Glocester          | \$90,962                                                               | \$16,419        |
| Hopkinton          | \$85,135                                                               | \$16,458        |
| Jamestown          | \$97,488                                                               | \$36,128        |
| Johnston           | \$81,014                                                               | \$13,834        |
| Lincoln            | \$88,446                                                               | \$25,910        |
| Little Compton     | \$127,337                                                              | \$33,335        |
| Middletown         | \$80,161                                                               | \$7,261         |
| Narragansett       | \$123,625                                                              | \$25,444        |
| New Shoreham       | \$73,409                                                               | \$46,014        |
| Newport            | \$48,260                                                               | \$17,559        |
| North Kingstown    | \$101,128                                                              | \$10,611        |
| North Providence   | \$70,437                                                               | \$9,492         |
| North Smithfield   | \$102,688                                                              | \$16,954        |
| Pawtucket          | \$41,281                                                               | \$2,429         |
| Portsmouth         | \$109,911                                                              | \$16,849        |
| Providence         | \$34,164                                                               | \$2,844         |
| Richmond           | \$114,792                                                              | \$17,936        |
| Scituate           | \$97,396                                                               | \$21,253        |
| Smithfield         | \$93,750                                                               | \$22,551        |
| South Kingstown    | \$104,276                                                              | \$14,252        |
| Tiverton           | \$84,375                                                               | \$10,882        |
| Warren             | \$61,406                                                               | \$11,574        |
| Warwick            | \$82,378                                                               | \$5,882         |
| West Greenwich     | \$105,417                                                              | \$14,582        |
| West Warwick       | \$50,690                                                               | \$4,125         |
| Westerly           | \$63,398                                                               | \$9,877         |
| Woonsocket         | \$31,923                                                               | \$4,028         |
| Four Core Cities   | NA                                                                     | NA              |
| Remainder of State | NA                                                                     | NA              |
| Rhode Island       | \$67,606                                                               | \$1,928         |

## Margins of Error, Children Living Below the Federal Poverty Threshold, Rhode Island, 2011-2015

| #      | CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 LIVING BELOW POVERTY, 2011-2015 |       |                 |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------------|-------|-----------------|
|        | MARGIN OF ERROR                                       | %     | MARGIN OF ERROR |
| 58     | 63                                                    | 1.4%  | 1.46%           |
| 252    | 125                                                   | 7.3%  | 3.52%           |
| 374    | 191                                                   | 11.7% | 5.81%           |
| 2,324  | 371                                                   | 41.9% | 5.63%           |
| 398    | 251                                                   | 26.6% | 15.93%          |
| 715    | 286                                                   | 10.8% | 4.23%           |
| 2,785  | 521                                                   | 17.7% | 3.15%           |
| 690    | 250                                                   | 9.5%  | 3.35%           |
| 191    | 126                                                   | 5.8%  | 3.77%           |
| 1,665  | 461                                                   | 17.5% | 4.61%           |
| 102    | 91                                                    | 8.5%  | 7.41%           |
| 45     | 52                                                    | 5.7%  | 6.48%           |
| 115    | 87                                                    | 6.3%  | 4.67%           |
| 99     | 81                                                    | 7.4%  | 5.86%           |
| 127    | 128                                                   | 13.4% | 13.14%          |
| 557    | 210                                                   | 10.8% | 3.92%           |
| 621    | 225                                                   | 12.8% | 4.43%           |
| 59     | 60                                                    | 10.6% | 10.47%          |
| 407    | 113                                                   | 11.0% | 2.89%           |
| 106    | 81                                                    | 5.1%  | 3.84%           |
| 11     | 34                                                    | 9.25  | 27.86%          |
| 862    | 261                                                   | 24.15 | 6.90%           |
| 852    | 283                                                   | 14.1% | 4.59%           |
| 620    | 238                                                   | 11.75 | 4.31%           |
| 75     | 71                                                    | 3.6%  | 3.36%           |
| 5,299  | 629                                                   | 32.7% | 3.60%           |
| 134    | 80                                                    | 3.75  | 2.18%           |
| 15,609 | 1,225                                                 | 39.0% | 2.84%           |
| 62     | 75                                                    | 3.5%  | 4.20%           |
| 184    | 133                                                   | 9.5%  | 6.75%           |
| 35     | 63                                                    | 1.0%  | 1.79%           |
| 418    | 185                                                   | 8.8%  | 3.83%           |
| 250    | 114                                                   | 8.8%  | 3.86%           |
| 297    | 131                                                   | 16.05 | 6.81%           |
| 1,271  | 277                                                   | 8.5%  | 1.81%           |
| -      | 51                                                    | -     | 3.18%           |
| 1,237  | 358                                                   | 22.5% | 6.13%           |
| 727    | 264                                                   | 16.6% | 5.78%           |
| 3,649  | 521                                                   | 40.8% | 5.05%           |
| 26,881 | 923                                                   | 38.05 | 1.20%           |
| 16,401 | 747                                                   | 11.6% | 0.51%           |
| 43,282 | 1,889                                                 | 20.4% | 0.88%           |

Children in Families Receiving Cash Assistance, Children with Asthma, Births to Teens, Children of Incarcerated Parents, Child Abuse and Neglect, Children Enrolled in Early Intervention, Children Enrolled in Early Head Start, and Children Enrolled in Head Start.

Whenever possible, Census data are updated using the most recent data from Census 2010; however, Census 2010 was a briefer survey than Census 2000 and did not include questions on employment and education status or on income, so indicators based on these measures use the most recent data from the American Community Survey.

In 2015, the U.S. Census Bureau discontinued publishing 3-year estimates of the American Community Survey. Beginning with the *2016 Rhode Island Kids Count Factbook*, 5-year estimates are used in all indicators that had used 3-year estimates in prior Factbooks.

### Margins of Error for Median Family Income and Children in Poverty

The 2011-2015 Median Family Income and Child Poverty data are estimates based on the American Community Survey, a sample survey. The reliability of estimates varies by community. In general, estimates for small communities are not as reliable as estimates for larger communities. The Margin of Error is a measure of the

# Methodology

reliability of the estimate and is provided by the U.S. Census Bureau. The Margin of Error means that there is 90 percent chance that the true value is no less than the estimate minus the Margin of Error and no more than the estimate plus the Margin of Error. Margins of Error are provided for all communities in the tables in this section.

## Methodology for Homeless Children

The number of homeless children identified by public schools is based on the federal *McKinney-Vento Act* definition of homelessness and includes children living in emergency and transitional shelters, as well as children doubling up in homes with relatives and friends and living in hotels and motels, cars, campsites, parks, and other public places. Schools report the number of children by grade and the child's primary nighttime residence (i.e., sheltered, doubled-up, unsheltered, or in a hotel/motel). The total number of students identified by school districts may be higher than the total for Rhode Island if students were identified as homeless by multiple school districts in which they were enrolled.

## Methodology for Children with Lead Poisoning

In 2012, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) lowered the threshold for which a child is

considered to have an elevated blood lead level from "10 µg/dL to "5 µg/dL.

This new threshold, also called a reference value, is based on the U.S. population of children age one through five who are in the highest 2.5% of children when tested for lead in their blood. The CDC will update the reference value every four years using the two most recent National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys (NHANES). Because no safe blood lead level in children has been identified, the CDC also will no longer use the term "level of concern" when talking about those children whose blood lead level exceed the reference value and require case management. Instead, they will replace that term with the reference value and the date of the NHANES that was used to calculate the reference value. For more information on this policy change, see [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

Rhode Island law requires providers to conduct at least two blood lead screening tests on all children by age three and to continue screening annually through age six. In October 2007, the Rhode Island Department of Health's Healthy Homes and Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program made its screening guidelines consistent with the American Academy of Pediatrics, which recommends a blood lead screening test for every child at age one and two.

The guidelines (which were updated

in 2012 to reflect the new CDC recommendations) indicate that if either of the blood lead tests done at ages one and two is  $\geq 5$  µg/dL, follow up and annual screening should continue until the age of six. For those children whose blood lead tests are "5 µg/dL, the pediatrician can use the Risk Assessment Questionnaire instead of a blood lead test until the age of six, which means that not all children receive an annual blood test after age two. For those children under age six who have not been screened at least twice prior to 36 months of age, it is recommended that a blood lead test be ordered. If the blood lead level is  $\geq 5$  µg/dL, the child should be screened annually.

Confirmed lead data at  $\geq 5$  µg/dL are based on venous tests and confirmed capillary tests only. The highest result (venous or capillary) is used. Complete confirmed lead poisoning trend data at the  $\geq 5$  µg/dL reference level are only available since 2012, when state blood lead screening protocols were updated to reflect the new lower CDC threshold. Prior to 2012, confirmed lead data at the  $\geq 5$  µg/dL reference value are available, but is incomplete and is limited to only those children who had a venous test. Children who had an initial capillary test and screened positive for lead between 5 µg/dL and 10 µg/dL were not required to have a confirmation test prior to 2012 as their

blood lead level did not exceed the old reference value of  $\geq 10$  µg/dL.

## Methodology for Youth Violence

All law enforcement agencies in Rhode Island are required to maintain a record of the nature of detentions and characteristics of juveniles they arrest.

They submit this information to the Rhode Island Public Safety Grant Administration Office on a monthly basis, and the information is aggregated into a summary report submitted annually to the federal Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. More information can be found at [www.rijustice.ri.gov](http://www.rijustice.ri.gov).

Assault offenses in this indicator include simple assault, robbery, assault, felony assault, assault with a dangerous weapon, domestic assault, assault on a police officer, threats, assault on a school teacher, strong-arm robbery, kidnapping, attempted murder, extortion, fighting, intimidating witness, stalking, attempted robbery, cyber-stalking, carjacking, harassment, and murder.

Weapons offenses in this indicator include possession of an unspecified weapon, possession of a knife, possession of a firearm, possession of a weapon at school, possession of a bb gun, discharging a firearm, possession of ammunition, possession of a dangerous weapon, carrying a concealed weapon, and discharging a bb gun.

## Methodology for Child Deaths due to Child Abuse and Neglect

Beginning with the 2013 Factbook, child deaths due to child abuse and neglect are reported using data provided by the Rhode Island Department of Health. Data from previous Factbooks are not comparable due to a change in data source.

## State-Operated and Charter Schools

The state-operated schools and charter schools included in each table are listed in the Source/Methodology Section next to the table. Charter schools include only independently-run charter schools and not those affiliated with a district. The Academy for Career Exploration, the New England Laborers'/Cranston Public Schools Construction Career Academy, and Times2 Academy are all district-affiliated charter schools, and consequently their data are reported within district categories instead of the charter school category. The Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program (UCAP) is listed separately when data are available. Charter schools, state-operated schools, and UCAP are not included in core city and remainder of state calculations.

## Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)

Starting in the 2014-2015 school year, Rhode Island began using a new

statewide assessment, the *Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)*. The *PARCC* is aligned to the Common Core State Standards. The English language arts *PARCC* assesses students' ability to read and comprehend complex texts, use different sources to compare and synthesize ideas, and write effectively. The math *PARCC* assesses students' ability to demonstrate mathematical reasoning and apply mathematical concepts to solve complex, real-world problems.

The percentage of students meeting expectations is the number of students who met or exceeded expectations for their grade on a specific *PARCC* assessment, divided by the number of students who took that assessment.

*PARCC* test results (including the number of students who opted-out of taking the test) are available for the state, district, and school levels on the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) website.

The *PARCC* replaced the *New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP)*, which was administered in Rhode Island between 2005 and 2013. Results from the *PARCC* are not comparable with *NECAP* assessment tests. Rhode Island totals may not be the same as the sum of the districts because results for districts with fewer than 10 students are not reported by RIDE.

An asterisk is used when there are

fewer than 10 students in a category to protect student confidentiality. These students are still counted in district totals and in the four core cities, remainder of the state, and state totals.

## Methodology for Schools Identified for Intervention

The Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) classifies schools based on a Composite Index Score that is comprised of four criteria: proficiency levels on the *PARCC* English language arts and math assessments, gap closure, student growth, and the graduation rate.

RIDE uses three school classifications. Priority schools have the lowest index scores in the state. Focus schools have the lowest scores, aside from Priority schools for proficiency or gap closing. Commended schools have the highest index scores in the state and no achievement gaps. They can be recognized either for high achievement or for closing gaps. Aside from Commended, Focus, and Priority schools, no other schools receive classifications.

## Limitations of the Data

In any data collection process there are always concerns about the accuracy and completeness of the data that are collected. All data used in Factbook indicators were collected through routine data collection systems operated by

different federal and state agencies. We do not have estimates of the completeness of reporting for these systems.

In September 2016, the state of Rhode Island instituted a new integrated eligibility determination system (Unified Health Infrastructure Project/UHIP) for many public benefits, including RI Works/TANE, SNAP/Food Stamps, the Child Care Assistance Program, and RIte Care, RIte Smiles, Katie Beckett, and other Medicaid coverage through HealthSourceRI.

Implementation problems caused data issues that Rhode Island KIDS COUNT worked with state agencies to resolve. However, we included notes in the following indicators to highlight particular areas that might have been affected by the UHIP system rollout: Children in Families Receiving Cash Assistance (RI Works), Children Receiving SNAP Benefits (SNAP), Children's Health Insurance (Medicaid/RIte Care/RIte Share/Katie Beckett/AdoptionSubsidies/HealthSource RI), Access to Dental Care (RIte Smiles), Children with Special Needs (Medicaid/RIte Care/RIte Share/Katie Beckett/Adoption Subsidies), Housing and Health (Weatherization Assistance Program Projects), and Children Receiving Child Care Subsidies (CCAP).

# Methodology & References

## Family Income Levels Based on the Federal Poverty Measures

The *poverty thresholds* are the original version of the federal poverty measure. They are updated each year by the Census Bureau. The thresholds are used mainly for statistical purposes — for instance, estimating the number of children in Rhode Island living in poor families. The poverty threshold is adjusted upward based on family size and whether or not household members are children, adults, or 65 years of age and over. The 2016 federal poverty threshold was \$19,337 for a family of three with two children and \$24,339 for a family of four with two children.

The *poverty guidelines* are the other version of the federal poverty measure. They are issued each year in the Federal Register by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

The poverty guidelines are a simplification of the poverty thresholds for use for administrative purposes such as determining financial eligibility for certain federal programs. Often, government assistance programs, including many of those administered by Rhode Island, use the federal poverty guidelines to determine income eligibility for public programs. The figures are adjusted upward for larger family sizes.

The phrases "Federal Poverty Level" and "Federal Poverty Line" (often abbreviated FPL) are used interchangeably and can refer to either the poverty thresholds or the poverty guidelines.

### Family Income Levels Based on the Federal Poverty Guidelines

| 2017 FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES | ANNUAL INCOME FAMILY OF THREE | ANNUAL INCOME FAMILY OF FOUR |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 50% FPL                         | \$10,210                      | \$12,300                     |
| 100% FPL                        | \$20,420                      | \$24,600                     |
| 130% FPL                        | \$26,546                      | \$31,980                     |
| 150% FPL                        | \$30,630                      | \$36,900                     |
| 180% FPL                        | \$36,756                      | \$44,280                     |
| 185% FPL                        | \$37,777                      | \$45,510                     |
| 200% FPL                        | \$40,840                      | \$49,200                     |
| 225% FPL                        | \$45,945                      | \$55,350                     |
| 250% FPL                        | \$51,050                      | \$61,500                     |

(continued from page 11)

### References for Children in Single Parent Families

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- <sup>17</sup> Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families. (2009). *Kinship care. (Policy 900.0025)*. Retrieved January 20, 2017, from www.dcyf.ri.gov
- <sup>18</sup> Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, Rhode Island Children's Information System (RICHIST), December 31, 2016.
- <sup>20</sup> Children's Bureau. (2013). *Title IV-E Guardianship Assistance*. Retrieved January 20, 2017, from www.acf.hhs.gov

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### References for Racial and Ethnic Diversity

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### References for Racial and Ethnic Disparities

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- <sup>31</sup> Rhode Island Department of Education, *Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) results*, 2016.
- <sup>32</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015, Tables B15003, C15002A, C15002B, C15002C, C15002D & C15002I.
- <sup>33,34,42</sup> Rhode Island Department of Education, 2015-2016 school year.

<sup>35,36</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010 Redistricting Data and Population Division.

<sup>38</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010-2014. Tables B19113 & B19113I.

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(continued from page 27)

#### References for Cost of Housing

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<sup>5,12</sup> *HousingWorks RI 2015 fact book*. (2015). Providence, RI: HousingWorks RI.

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**Chronic Early Absence:** Kim Chouinard, Kenneth Gu, RI Department of Education; Christine Arouth, Newport School Department; Ralph Smith, Laura Beavers Speer, The Annie E. Casey Foundation.

**Chronic Absence, Middle School and High School:** Kenneth Gu, RI Department of Education.

**Suspensions:** Kenneth Gu, Elizabeth Landry, RI Department of Education; Karen

Feldman, Young Voices; Zack Mezera, Providence Student Union; Dannie Ritchie, Brown University; Martha Yager, American Friends Service Committee – South East New England Program.

**High School Graduation Rate:** Cali Cornell, Kenneth Gu, Elizabeth Landry, Angela Teixeira, RI Department of Education.

**College Preparation & Access and College Enrollment & Completion:** Deborah Grossman-Garber, Michael Joyce, Gail Mance-Rios, RI Office of the Postsecondary Commissioner; Maria Carvalho, Robert Oberg, The College Crusade of RI; Simon Moore, College Visions; William LeBlanc, Community College of RI; Ronald DiOrio, University of Rhode Island; Kenneth Gu, Phyllis Lynch, Mary Ann Snider, Peg Votta, RI Department of Education; Solanchi Fernandez, College Planning Center; Tom Mortensen, Postsecondary Opportunity; Paul Harrington, Drexel University; Sarah Linet, Great Schools Partnership.

**Teens Not in School and Not Working:** Laura Beavers Speer, The Annie E. Casey Foundation; Jean D’Amico, Population Reference Bureau.

# Notes





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