

Newport Data in Your Backyard

Using Data to Monitor Child Well-Being:
Findings from the *2024 Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Factbook*

Presented by Stephanie Geller

Rhode Island KIDS COUNT

October 1, 2024



Special Thanks

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A Children's Policy Organization that:

Provides Information on Children's
Well-Being

Stimulates Dialogue on Children's Issues

Promotes Accountability and Action



1994-2024

Rhode Island

KIDS COUNT

**Celebrating 30 Years
of Child Advocacy**

2024 Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Factbook

30th annual publication

70 indicators across 5 areas

City and town-level information

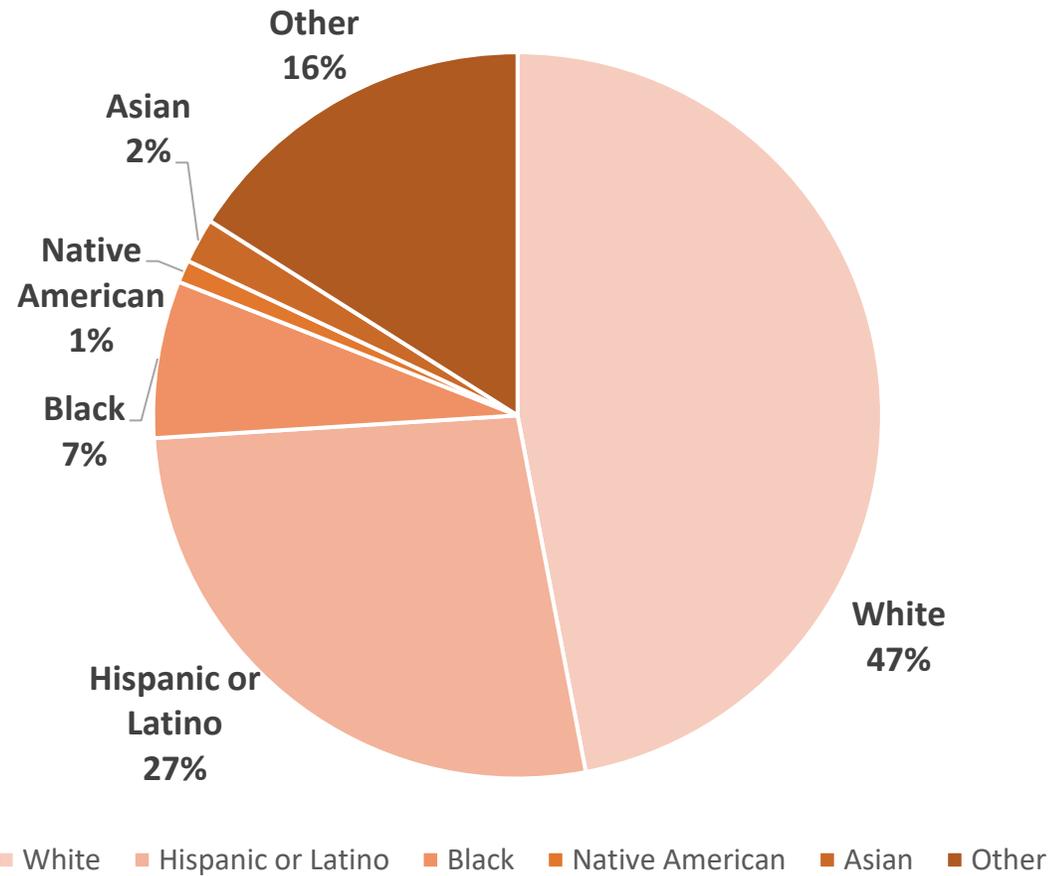




Family and Community

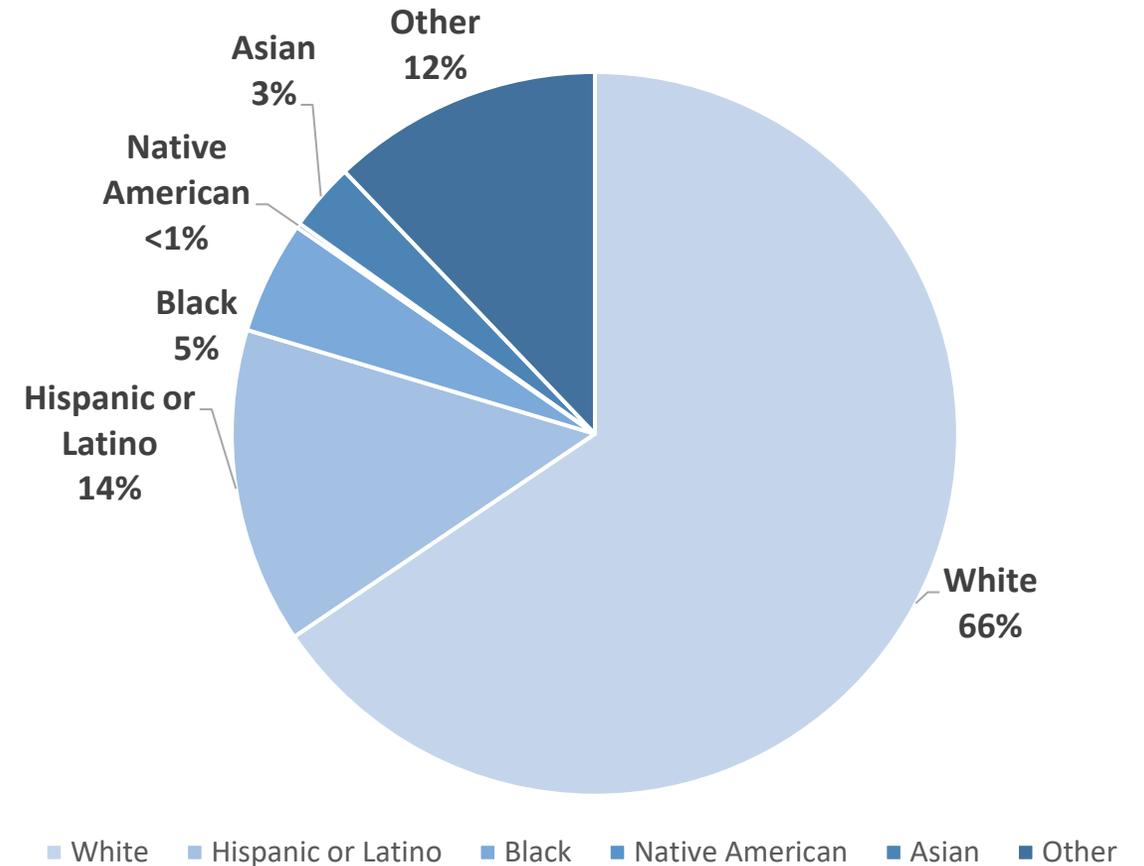
Child Population by Race and Ethnicity, 2020

Newport



N=3,660

Middletown



N=3,487



Economic Well-Being

How Do We Define Poverty?

- Poverty level in 2023
 - \$24,549 for a family of 3
 - \$30,900 for a family of 4
- *2024 Rhode Island Standard of Need*
 - Single-parent family with 2 children would need \$83,239 a year to meet its basic needs, which would require a pre-tax income of \$99,418 (or \$47.80 per hour) to meet this budget without governmental subsidies.



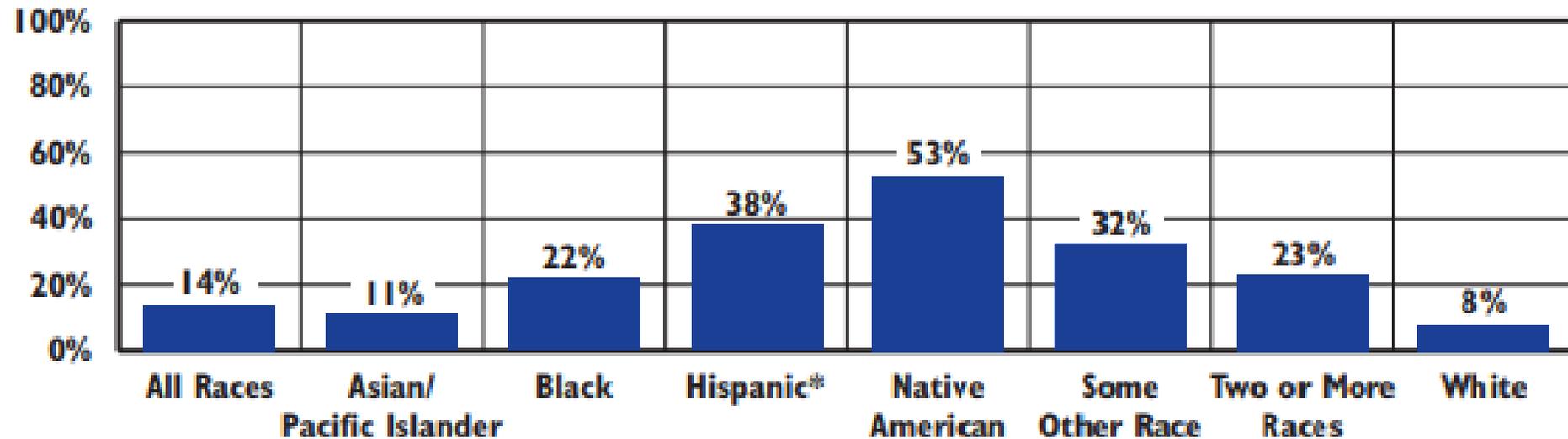
Child Poverty Rates in Newport Among the Highest in Rhode Island

	Child Poverty 2018-2022	FRPL October 2023
Middletown	9.5%	31%
Newport	21.0%	68%
Portsmouth	6.3%	14%
Four Core Cities	26.8%	69%
Rhode Island	14.1%	44%

Note: Child poverty rates for Middletown, Newport, and Portsmouth all have high margins of error and should be interpreted with caution.

Large Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Child Poverty

Children in Poverty, by Race and Ethnicity, Rhode Island, 2018-2022

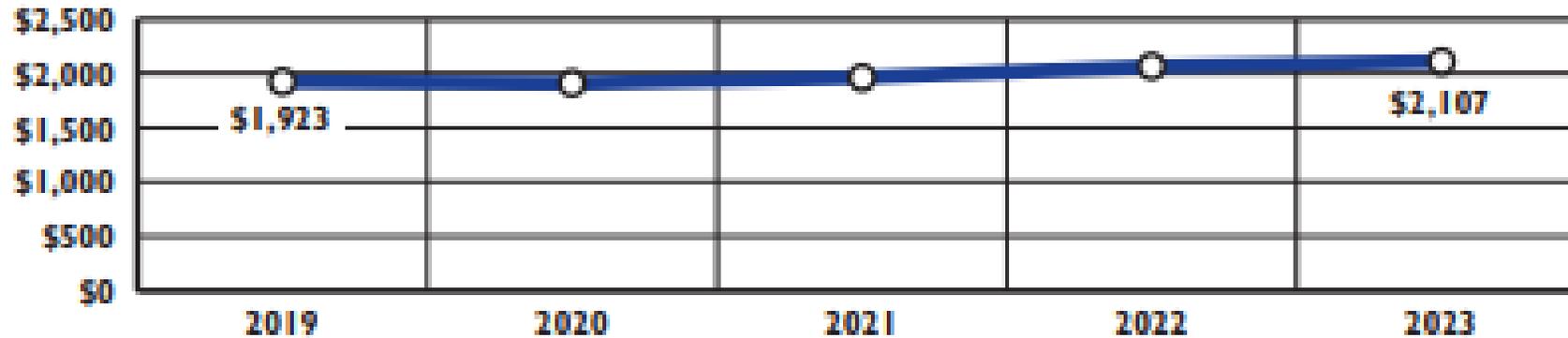


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018-2022. Tables B17020, B17020A, B17020B, B17020C, B17020D, B17020E, B17020F, B17020G and B17020I. *Hispanic children may be included in any race category.

Note: Hispanic children may be included in any race category.

Cost of Housing

Average Rent, Two-Bedroom Apartment, Rhode Island, 2019-2023



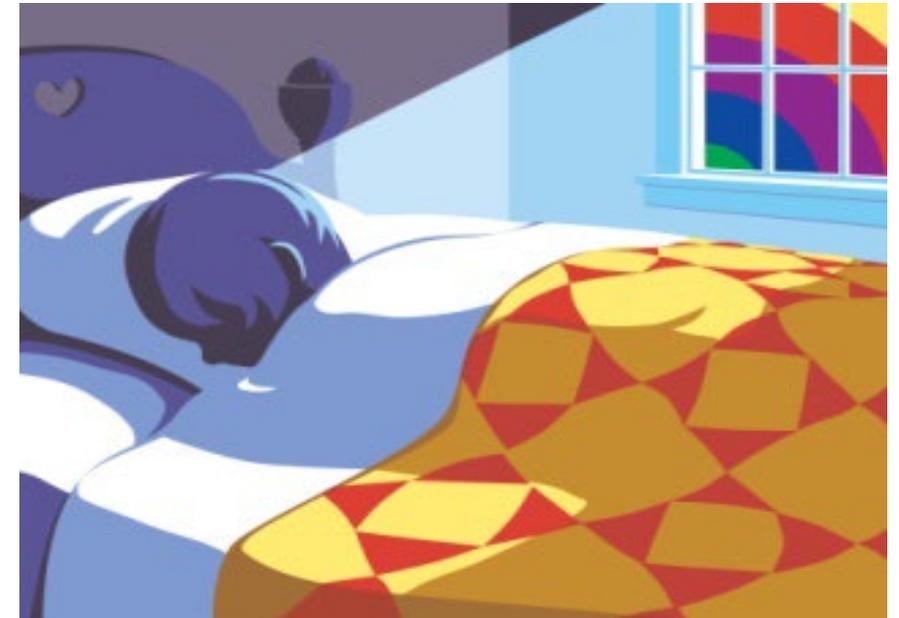
Source: Rhode Island Housing, Rhode Island Rent Survey, 2019-2023. Rents are adjusted to 2023 dollars and include adjustments for the cost of gas, fuel, water, and electricity. Adjustments for utilities for each year vary according to U.S. Census American Community Survey's (ACS) annual one-year estimates. Due to a change in methodology, data cannot be compared to Factbooks prior to 2019.

- In 2023, the average cost of rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Rhode Island was \$2,107.
 - In Middletown it was \$2,179.
 - In Newport it was \$1,923.

- In 2023, a worker would have to earn \$40.51 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 was over three times the minimum wage of \$13.00 per hour in 2023.

More Children Experiencing Homelessness

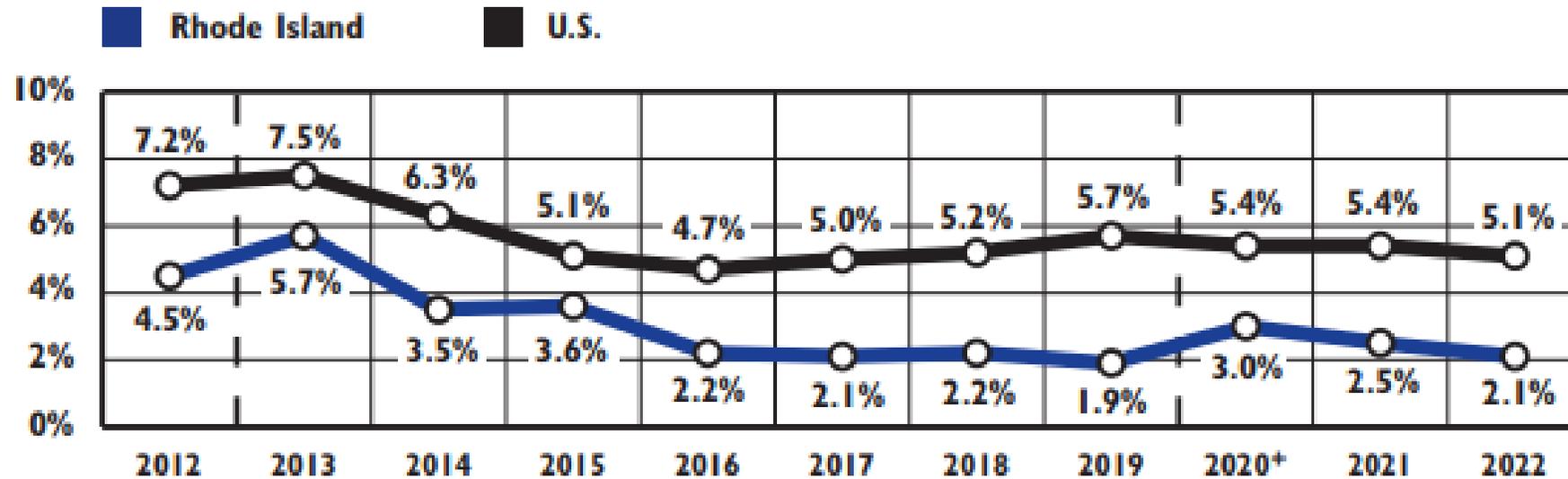
- In 2023, 363 Rhode Island families with 668 children stayed at an emergency homeless shelter, domestic violence shelter, transitional housing facility or hotel paid for by DCYF.
- During the 2022-2023 school year, Rhode Island public school personnel identified 1,739 children as homeless. Of these children, 66% lived with other families (“doubled up”), 17% lived in hotels or motels, 15% lived in shelters, and 2% were unsheltered.
- **Newport Public Schools personnel identified 36 children as homeless.**
- **Middletown Public Schools personnel identified 93 children as homeless.**





How Can We Ensure that Rhode Island Children Are Insured?

Children Without Health Insurance, Rhode Island, 2012-2022



- Recently released data show that in 2023 in Rhode Island
 - ✓ 3.25% of children under age 19 were uninsured
 - ✓ Rhode Island ranks 10th best in the country
- **Cover All Kids** – all low-income kids now covered regardless of immigration status
- **Recertification** – all families covered by Medicaid had to recertify this past year

September 2024

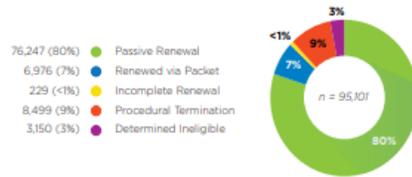
Keeping Kids Covered: Medicaid Renewals in Rhode Island

During the COVID-19 pandemic, all Medicaid renewals were suspended so that families and individuals did not lose critical health insurance coverage during the national public health emergency.¹ Beginning in April 2023, the State of Rhode Island started to renew coverage for all Medicaid beneficiaries. This 'return to normal' redetermination and renewal process occurred through March 2024 with renewals for households with children taking place from December 2023 through April 2024.²

When the public health emergency ended, it was estimated that millions of children across the nation would lose coverage, many for administrative or procedural reasons. This process threatened to reverse much of the progress seen in recent years. Predictions were that this unprecedented process of redetermining eligibility for nearly everyone covered by Medicaid, otherwise known as 'unwinding' of the continuous coverage protection, would cause the uninsured rate for children to start moving in the wrong direction as many eligible children lost Medicaid coverage.³

Nationally, over 5.4 million children have lost Medicaid coverage as of July 2024.⁴ Rhode Island did better than other states in keeping children covered. What can we learn from this experience? Going forward, **what can we do as a state to ensure that children retain the coverage they need to stay healthy and Rhode Island continues to be a leader in health insurance coverage?**

MEDICAID REDETERMINATIONS BY RENEWAL STATUS, RHODE ISLAND, 2024



Source: EOHHS Data Dashboard, July 3, 2024. Includes both CHIP and non-CHIP children redetermined from January through April 2024.

- More than three-quarters (80%) of children (76,247) were renewed passively, meaning that coverage was automatically renewed based on available data sources, such as state wage databases.⁵
- An additional 7% (6,976) of children were renewed via packet, meaning their families had to fill out additional information to confirm that they were still Medicaid-eligible.⁶
- Only 3,150 children (3%) were terminated due to ineligibility. Some of these children may have obtained health insurance through their parent's employer or through HealthSource RI (HSRI). An additional **8,499 (9%) were terminated due to procedural or administrative reasons.**⁷
- A total of 11,649 Rhode Island children lost Medicaid coverage during the renewal process, and of these almost three-quarters (73%) lost coverage due to procedural or administrative reasons, including failure to return their redetermination packet in a timely fashion or missing documents.**⁸

MEDICAID ENROLLMENT AMONG CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18, RHODE ISLAND, DECEMBER 2023-JUNE 2024



Source: EOHHS Data Dashboard, July 1, 2024. Note: This chart includes new Medicaid members and children who were disenrolled and then re-enrolled and who may have experienced a period without Medicaid coverage. Children who are enrolled in Medicaid but who are age 18 or older are not included.



Scan for Brief

Children's Mental Health Crisis Continues

- **Concerns about increased mental health needs of children and youth.**
 - Nationally, even before the COVID-19 pandemic, mental health issues and suicide among adolescents had increased.
 - In April 2022, a [Rhode Island State of Emergency in Child and Adolescent Mental Health](#) was declared.
 - On the 2023 *Youth Risk Behavior Survey*:
 - 36% of RI high school students reported feeling sad or hopeless for more than 2 weeks in the previous year.
 - 9% of RI high school students reported attempting suicide 1+ times during past year
 - In 2022, more than half (59%) of RI children ages 3-17 who needed mental health treatment or counseling had a problem getting needed care

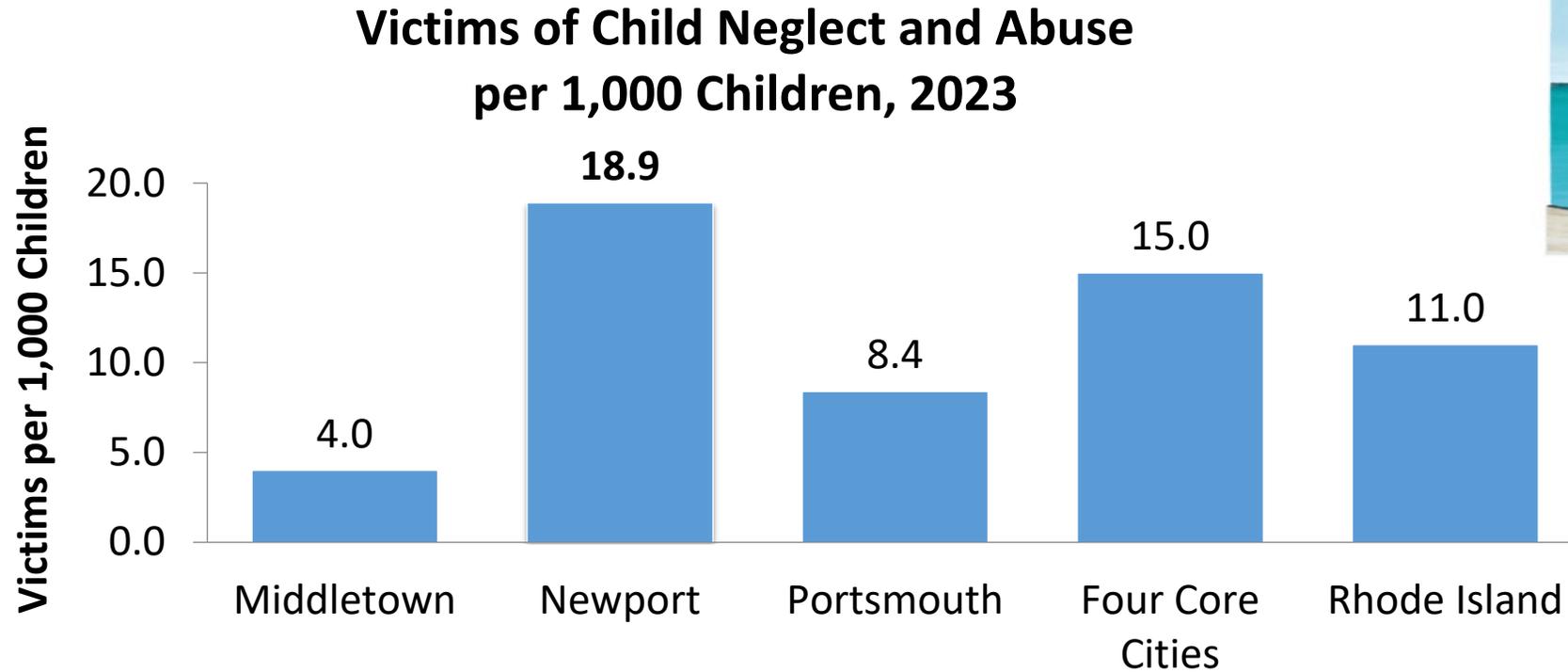


Safety

Children of Incarcerated Parents

- More than five million children in the U.S. have had a parent incarcerated in jail or state or federal prison at some point in their lives.
- On September 30, 2023, 67% of Rhode Island inmates surveyed reported having children. 93% were fathers and 7% were mothers. A total of 1,590 parents reported 3,986 children.
- Children of incarcerated parents are more likely to be involved in the child welfare system, experience higher rates of physical and mental health problems, learning disabilities, grade retention, and suspension.
- A parent's criminal record is often a barrier to housing eligibility, employment, and access to public benefits.

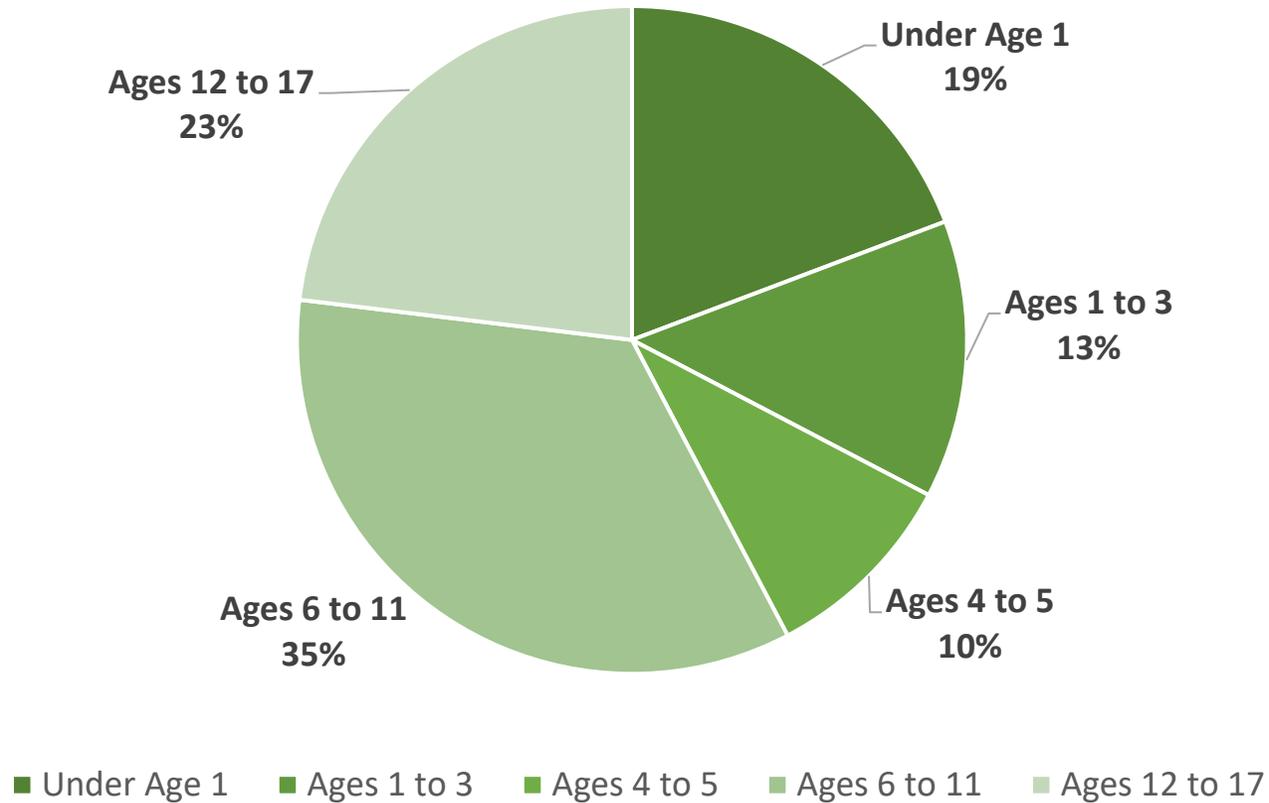
Child Neglect and Abuse Rising in Newport



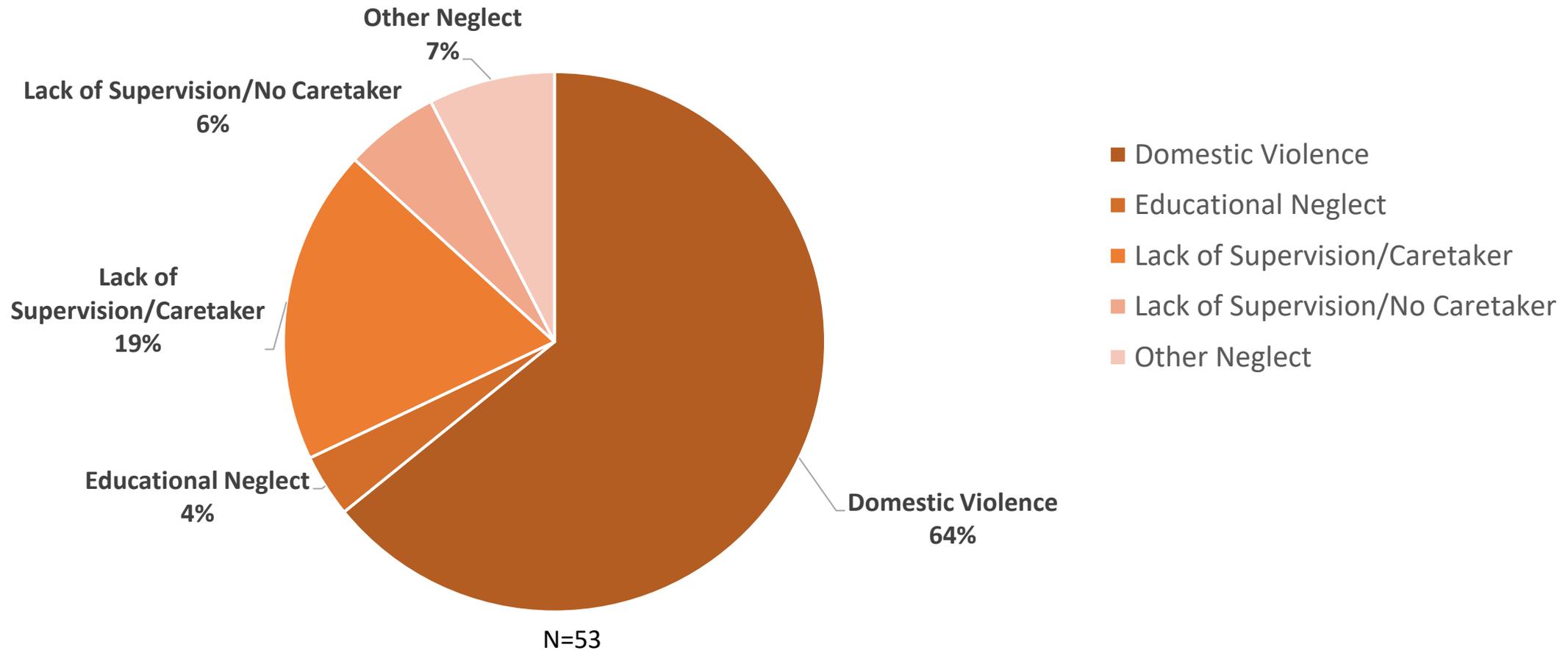
In 2023, 69 Newport children and 14 Middletown children were reported victims of child neglect and abuse.

Newport's child neglect and abuse victim rate was **18.9 victims per 1,000** children in 2023, up from 12.8 victims per 1,000 children in 2022 and the 2nd highest rate in the state after Woonsocket.

Almost Half of Child Neglect and Abuse Victims in Newport Under Age 6



Newport Neglect Incidents Reported in 2023 Most Often Related to Domestic Violence or Lack of Supervision

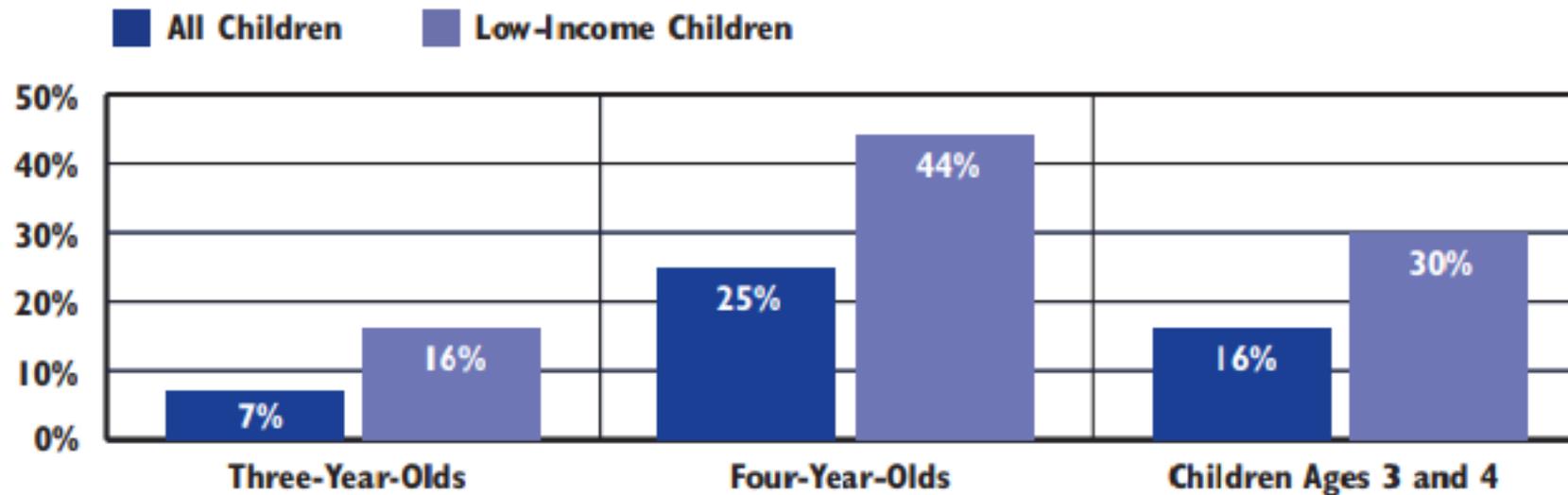




Education

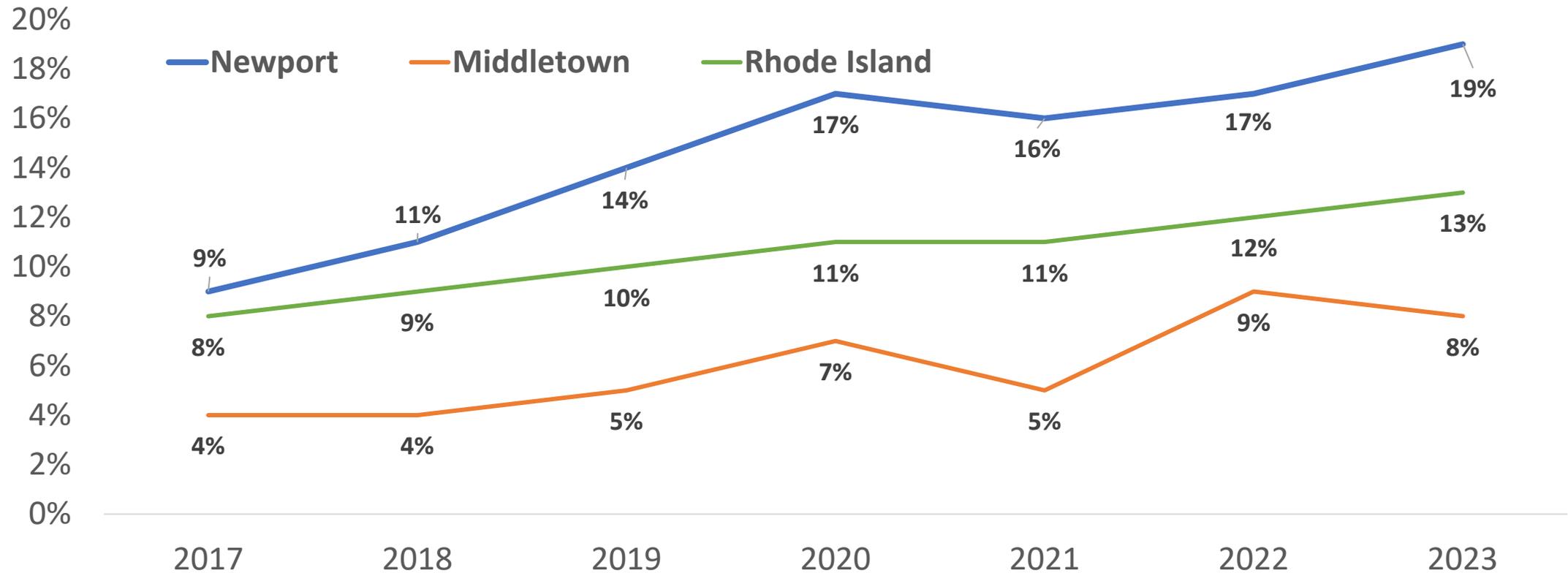
Opportunities for High-Quality Early Childhood Education in Newport

Percentage of Children Ages 3 and 4 Enrolled in Head Start and/or RI Pre-K, Rhode Island, 2023-2024



- **20% of all Newport children and 23% of low-income children in Newport ages 3 and 4 were enrolled in either Head Start or RI Pre-K.**
- **16% of all Middletown children and 41% of low-income children in Middletown ages 3 and 4 were enrolled in either Head Start or RI Pre-K.**

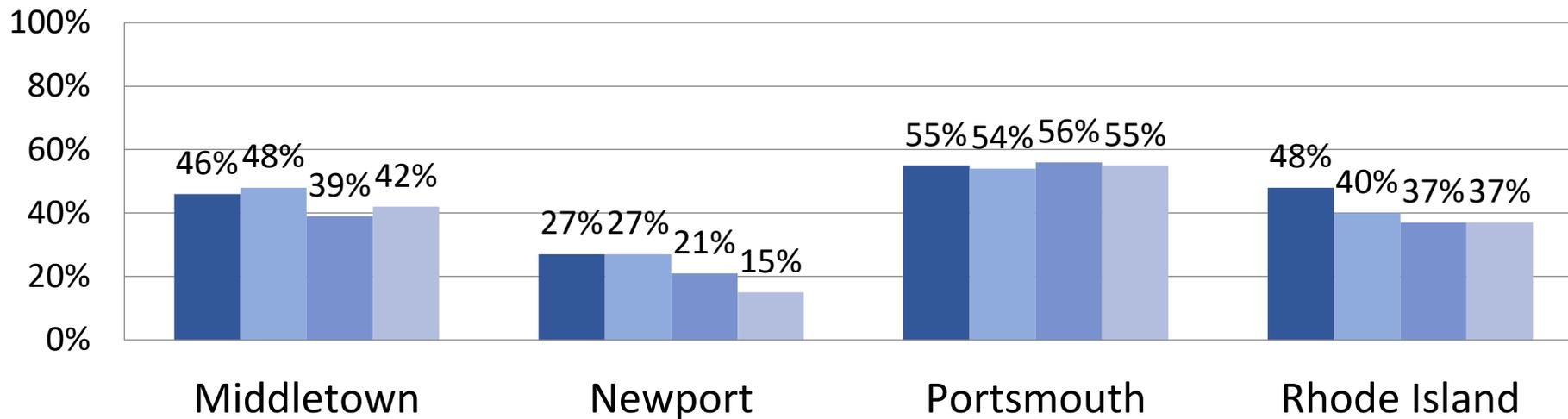
Growing Number of Multilingual Students



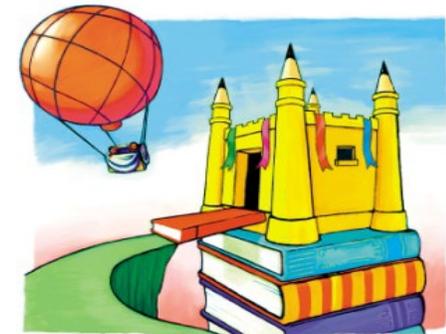
Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, 2016-2017 through 2022-2023 school years.

Third-Grade Reading Skills Declined After Pandemic

Third-Graders Meeting Expectations in Reading 2019, 2021, 2022, and 2023



Source: Rhode Island Department of Education,
Rhode Island Comprehensive Assessment System (RICAS), 2021-2023.



Disparities in 3rd Grade Reading and What We Can Do About It

All <u>Newport</u> 3rd Graders Meeting Expectations	15%
Female	15%
Male	14%
Students With Disabilities	<5%
Students Without Disabilities	19%
Multilingual Learners	<5%
Low-Income Students	7%
Higher-Income Students	34%
Black Students	<5%
Hispanic Students	<5%
Multiracial Students	17%
White Students	28%

All <u>Middletown</u> 3rd Graders Meeting or Exceeding Expectations	42%
Female	39%
Male	44%
Students With Disabilities	14%
Students Without Disabilities	51%
Multilingual Learners	17%
Low-Income Students	26%
Higher-Income Students	49%
Black Students	Not available
Hispanic Students	36%
Multiracial Students	30%
White Students	47%

Science Skills

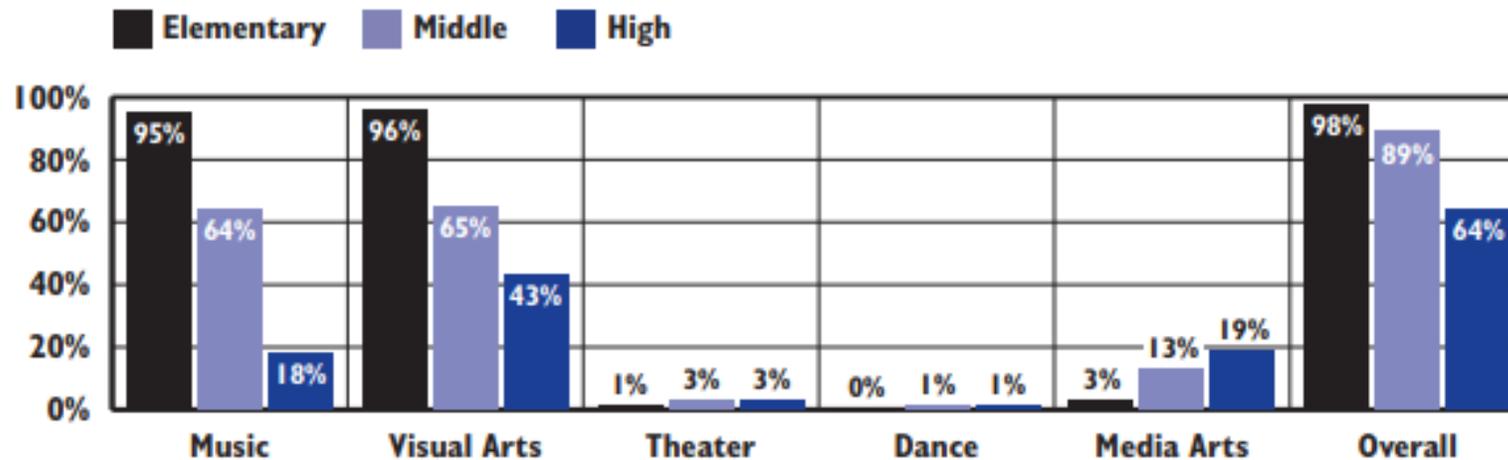
- In Rhode Island in 2023, 32% of 5th graders, 28% of 8th graders, and 31% of 11th graders met expectations in science on the *RICAS*.
- There are large disparities by race/ethnicity, income, disability, and Multilingual Learner status.
- **In Newport** in 2023, 17% of 5th graders, 17% of 8th graders, and 21% of 11th graders met expectations.
- **In Middletown** in 2023, 40% of 5th graders, 37% of 8th graders, and 31% of 11th graders met expectations.

Fifth-, Eighth-, & Eleventh-Grade Students Meeting Expectations on the Next Generation Science Assessment, Rhode Island, 2023

SUBGROUP	FIFTH GRADE	EIGHTH GRADE	ELEVENTH GRADE
Female Students	31%	27%	32%
Male Students	32%	29%	31%
*Multilingual Learners	<5%	<5%	<5%
Non-English Learners	36%	33%	35%
*Students Receiving Special Education Services	7%	6%	6%
Students Not Receiving Special Education Services	36%	33%	35%
Low-Income Students	17%	14%	15%
Higher-Income Students	46%	41%	41%
American Indian or Alaska Native Students	15%	13%	20%
Asian Students+	46%	37%	49%
Black Students	17%	12%	13%
Hispanic/Latino Students	16%	14%	14%
White Students	43%	39%	43%
Homeless Students	9%	7%	18%
Students in Foster Care	25%	8%	12%
<i>ALL STUDENTS</i>	32%	28%	31%

Arts Education

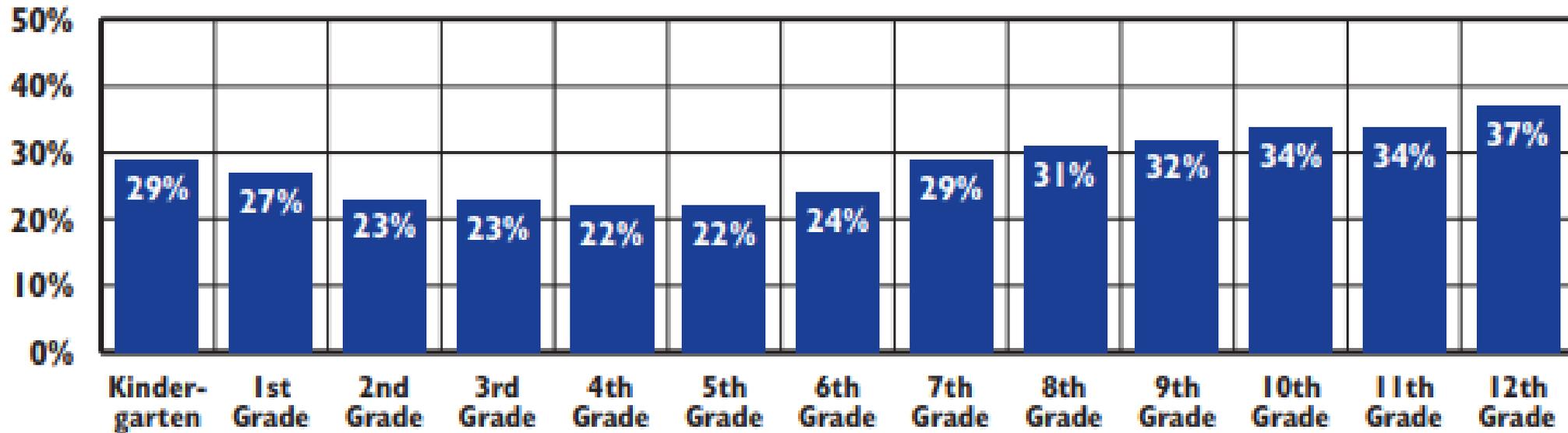
Enrollment by Arts Discipline, Rhode Island, 2021-2022 School Year



- In the 2021-2022 school year, 84% of all Rhode Island students were enrolled in arts courses. Rates were somewhat higher in Newport (89%) and Middletown (91%)
- Low-income schools are less likely to offer arts access, with 18% of low-income schools not providing any arts access and more than 40% not meeting the minimum requirements for arts access according to the Basic Education Program.

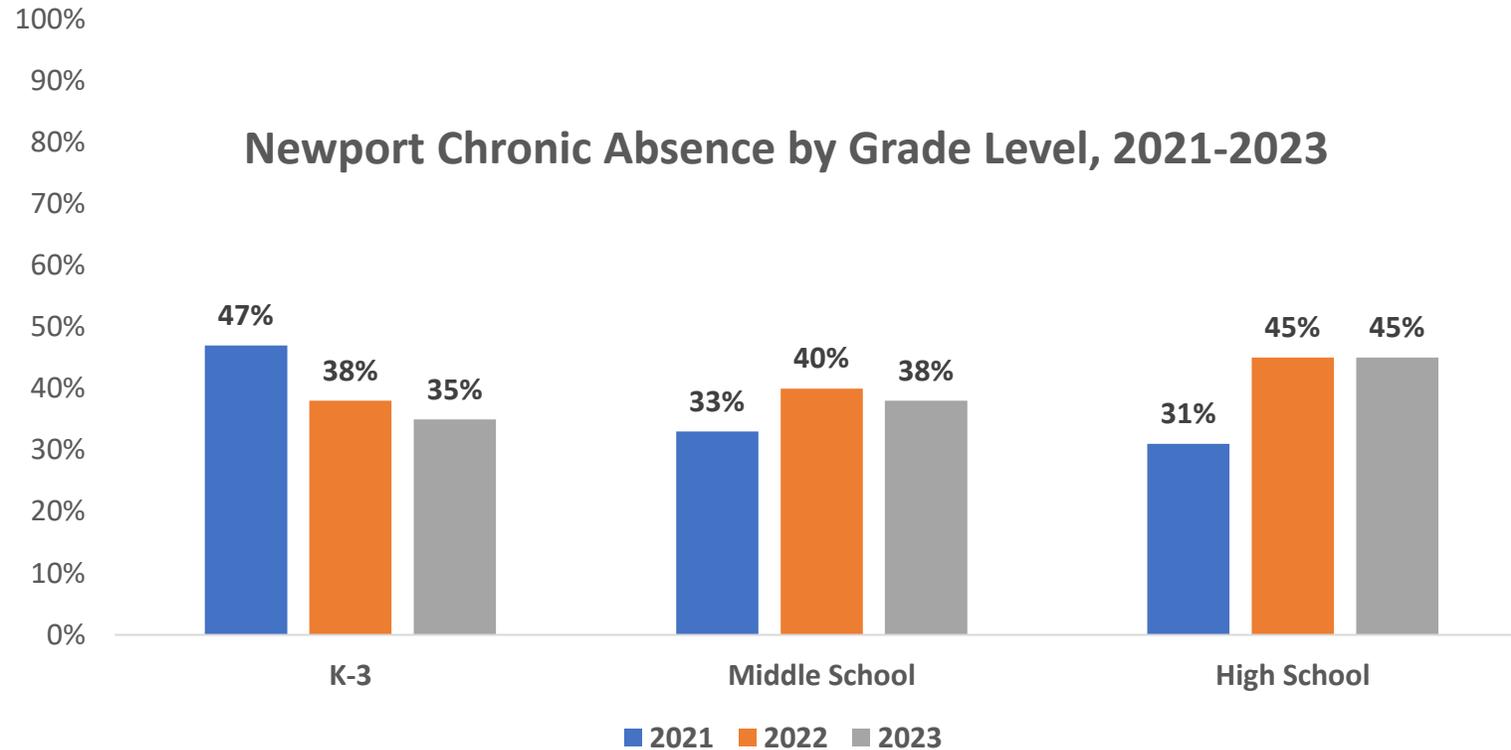
Chronic Absence Continues to Be a Problem Statewide

Chronic Absence Rates in Rhode Island by Grade, 2022-2023 School Year



- Chronic early absence is the percentage of children in kindergarten through third grade (K-3) who have missed at least 10% of the school year (i.e., 18 days or more), including excused and unexcused absences.
- During the 2022-2023 school year, 25% of all Rhode Island children, 20% of Middletown children, and 35% of Newport children in grades K-3 were chronically absent, .

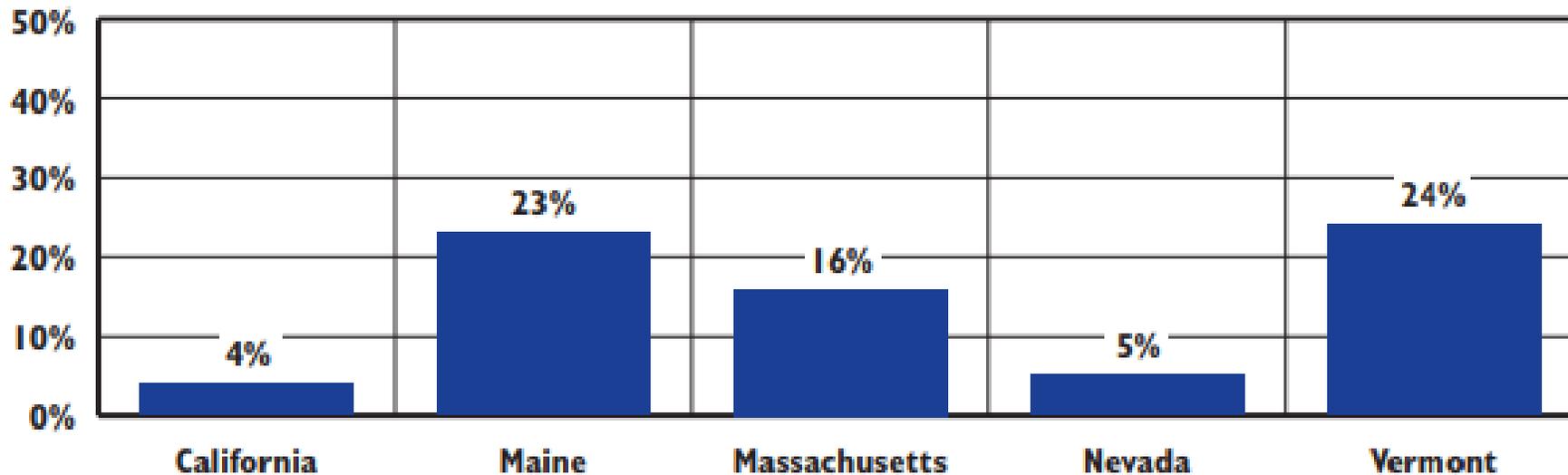
Chronic Absence Continues to Be a Problem in Newport, but Some Progress Being Made in Early Grades



In Newport, more than one-third (35%) of K-3 students missed 18+ days of school during the 2022-2023 school year, slightly down from last year (38%) but still very high.

School Meals Help Support Academic Success and Improves Attendance, Behavior & Health

Percentage Change in Children Participating in School Lunch in Healthy School Meals for All States, 2018-2019 to 2022-2023 School Year



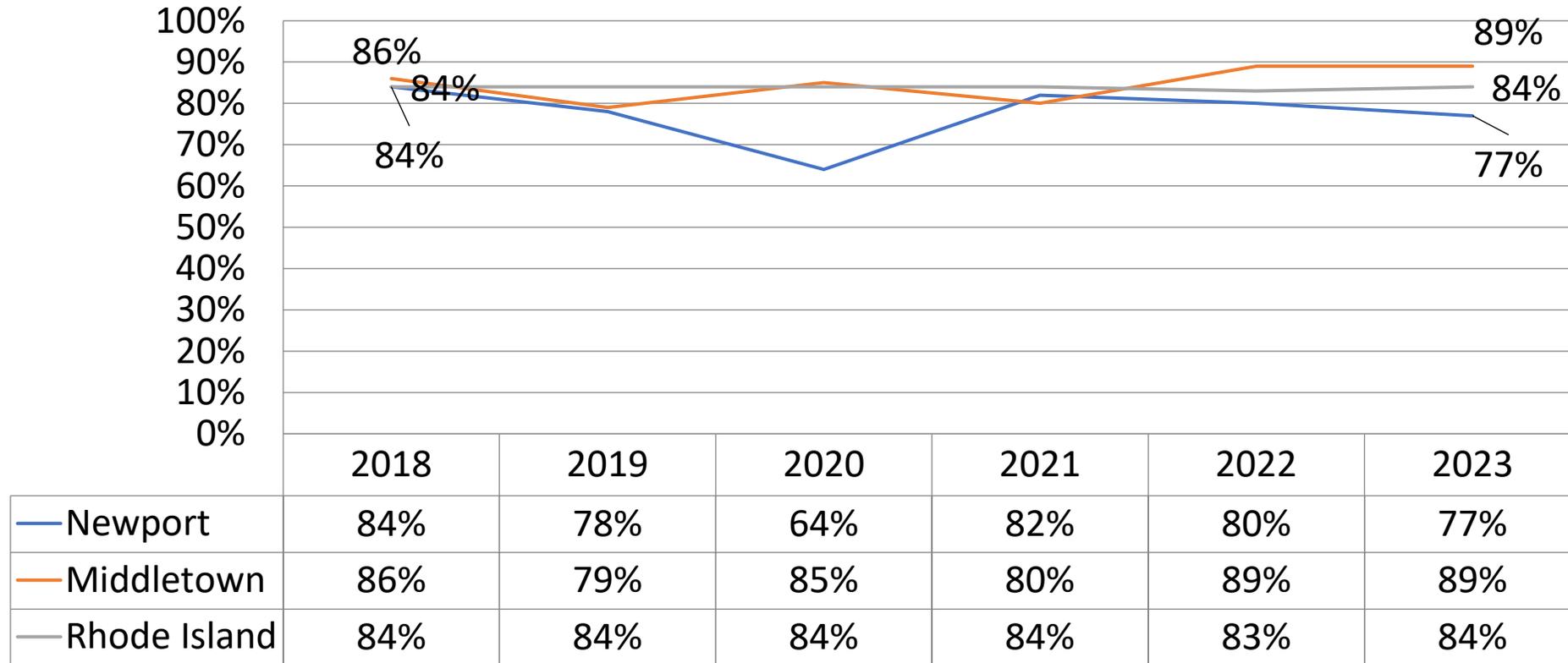
Newport offers grab-and-go and breakfast in the classroom and is eligible to participate in CEP and provide free meals to all students.

Out-of-School Time Programs Can Help Improve Attendance, Behavior & Achievement

**Students Served by 21st Century Community Learning Centers
by Grade Span, Rhode Island, 2022-2023 School Year**

SCHOOL DISTRICT	GRADES PK-3	GRADES 4-5	GRADES 6-8	GRADES 9-12	TOTAL
Central Falls	0	0	5	38	43
Cranston	155	86	111	0	352
East Providence	82	46	181	0	309
Newport	227	106	173	284	790
Pawtucket	490	331	0	0	821
Providence	152	65	803	559	1,579
West Warwick	85	8	0	0	93
Woonsocket	372	198	189	109	868
<i>Charter Schools</i>	<i>126</i>	<i>69</i>	<i>55</i>	<i>102</i>	<i>352</i>
<i>DCYF</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>UCAP</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>62</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>64</i>
<i>Rhode Island</i>	<i>1,689</i>	<i>909</i>	<i>1,579</i>	<i>1,111</i>	<i>5,288</i>

High School Graduation Rate, 2018-2023



Of the 182 Newport students who entered 9th grade in the 2019-2020 school year and were expected to graduate in 2023, **77% graduated in 4 years**, 13% dropped out, 2% obtained a GED, and 7% were still in school.

Who Is Graduating On Time and Why?

All Newport Students	77%
CTE Concentrators	94%
Non-CTE Concentrators	63%
Students With Disabilities	67%
Students Without Disabilities	79%
Multilingual Learners	75%
Low-Income Students	72%
Higher-Income Students	92%
Black Students	83%
Hispanic Students	63%
Multiracial Students	73%
White Students	94%



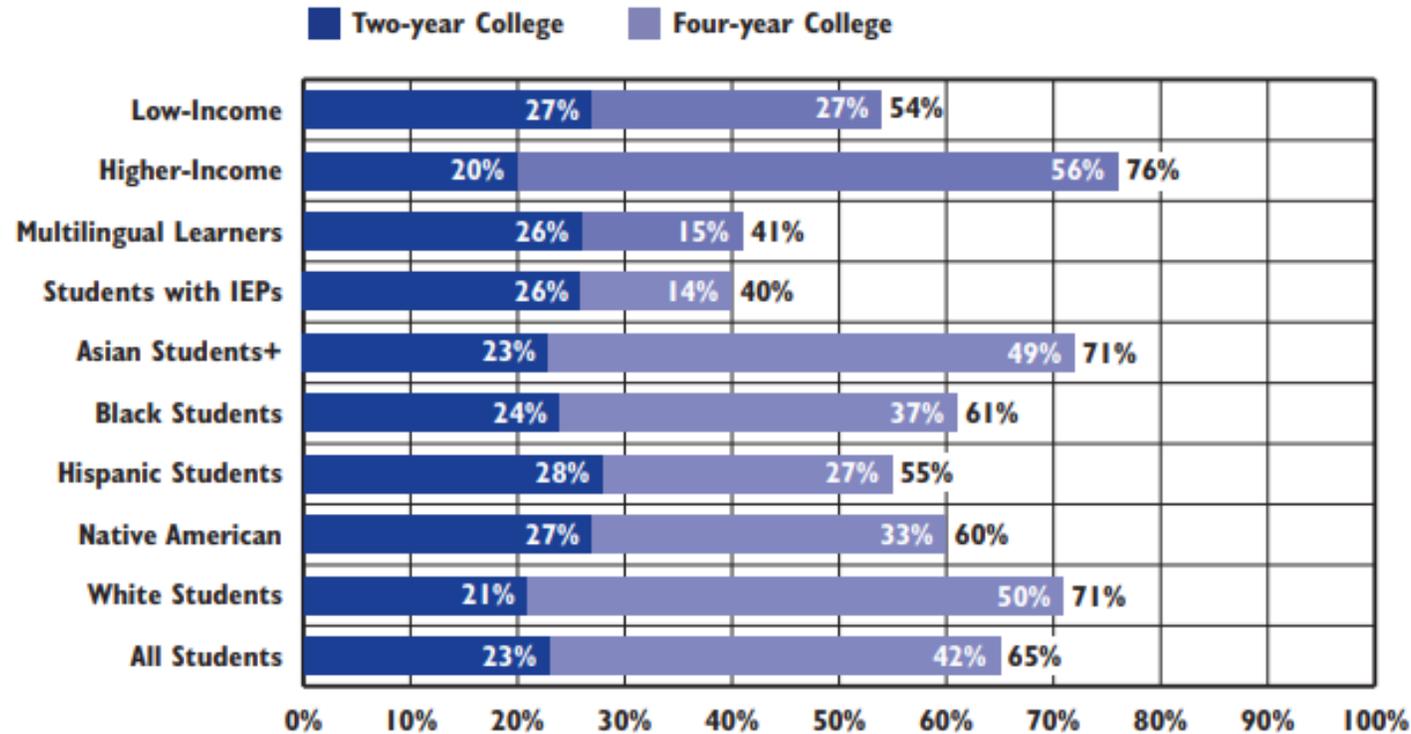
Who Is Graduating On Time and Why?



All Middletown Students	89%
CTE Concentrators	100%
Non-CTE Concentrators	85%
Students With Disabilities	81%
Students Without Disabilities	91%
Multilingual Learners	43%
Low-Income Students	74%
Higher-Income Students	97%
Black Students	89%
Hispanic Students	69%
Multiracial Students	80%
White Students	93%

College Preparation and Access

Immediate College Enrollment by Family Income, Race, Ethnicity, and Type of College, Class of 2023, Rhode Island



- 65% percent of Rhode Island students, 57% of Newport students, and 66% of Middletown students who graduated from high school in the Class of 2023 immediately enrolled in college.
- There are large gaps in college access, particularly four-year college enrollment, between low- and higher-income students as well as by race and ethnicity.

Rhode Island KIDS COUNT

One Union Station
Providence, RI 02903

(401) 351-9400

www.rikidscount.org

rikids@rikidscount.org

