

Newport (and Middletown) Data in Your Backyard

Using Data to Monitor Child Well-Being:
Findings from the *2025 Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Factbook*

Presented by Stephanie Geller

Rhode Island KIDS COUNT

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Member FDIC



A Children's Policy Organization that:

Provides Information on Children's
Well-Being

Stimulates Dialogue on Children's Issues

Promotes Accountability and Action

2025 Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Factbook

31st annual publication

67 indicators across 5 areas

City and town-level information

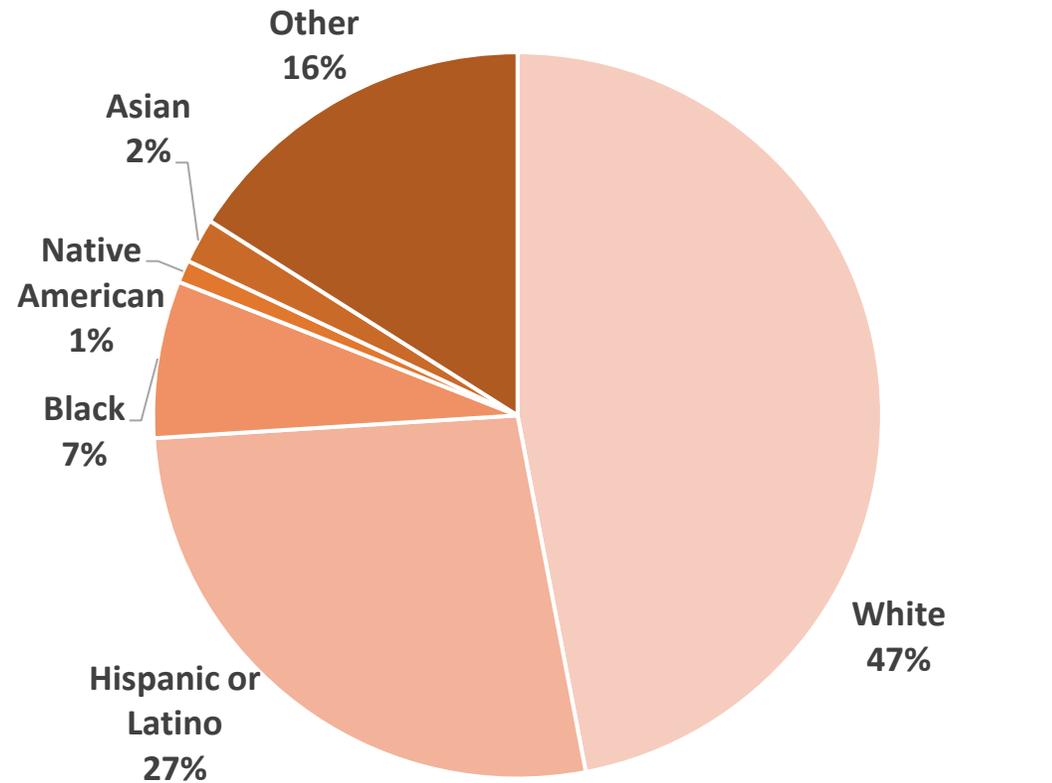




Family and Community

Child Population by Race and Ethnicity, 2020

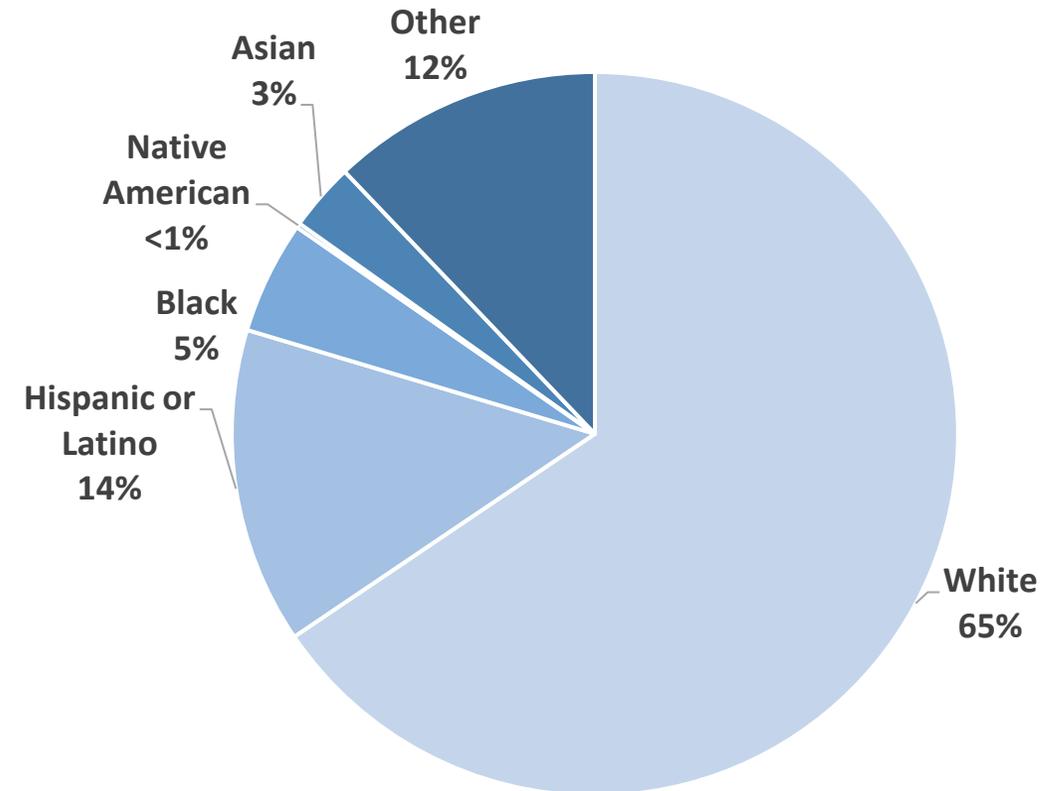
Newport



White Hispanic or Latino Black Native American Asian Other

N=3,660

Middletown



White Hispanic or Latino Black Native American Asian Other

N=3,487



Economic Well-Being

How Do We Define Poverty?

- Poverty threshold in 2024
 - \$26,650 for a family of 3
 - \$32,150 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

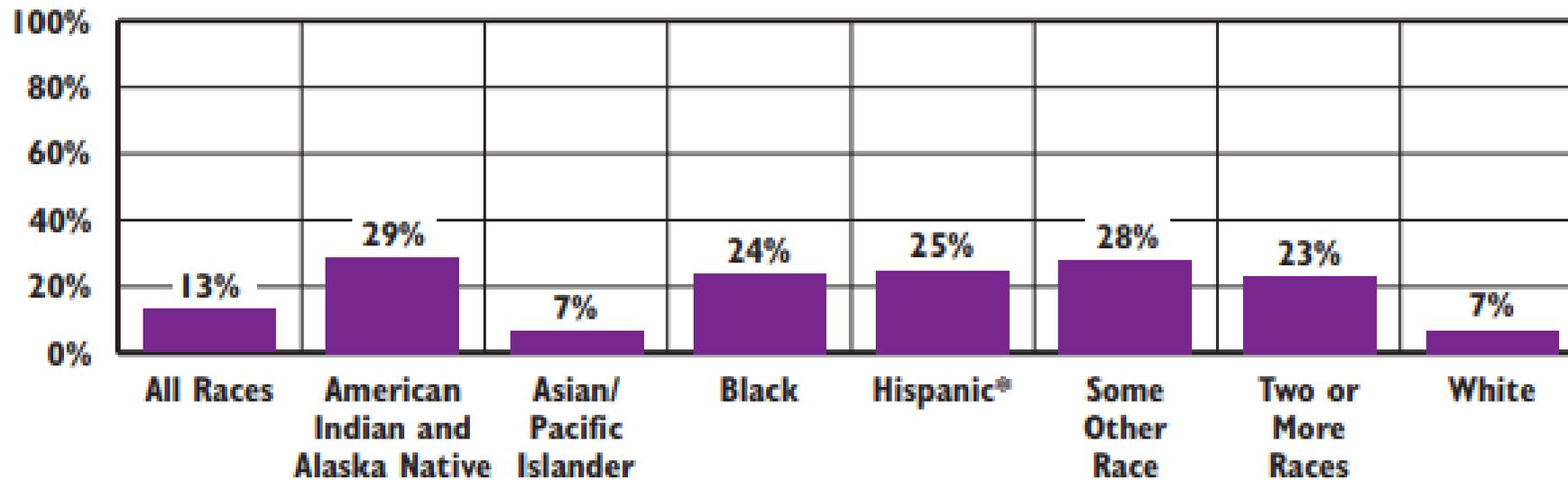
	Child Poverty 2019-2023	FRPL October 2024
Middletown	14.1%	36%
Newport	25.1%	74%
Portsmouth	5.1%	20%
Four Core Cities	25.4%	80%
Rhode Island	13.3%	54%

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, 2019-2023

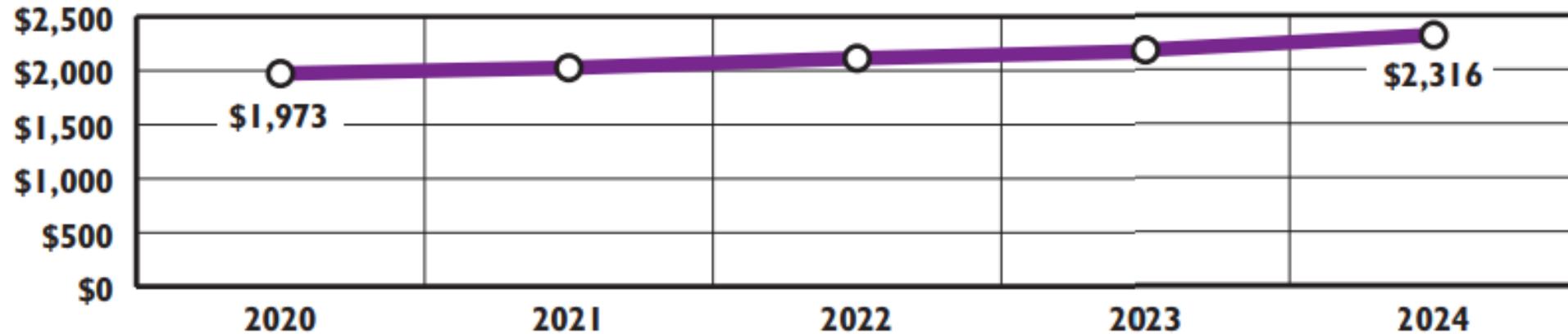


Note: Hispanic children may be included in any race category.

Cost of Housing



Average Rent, Two-Bedroom Apartment, Rhode Island, 2020-2024



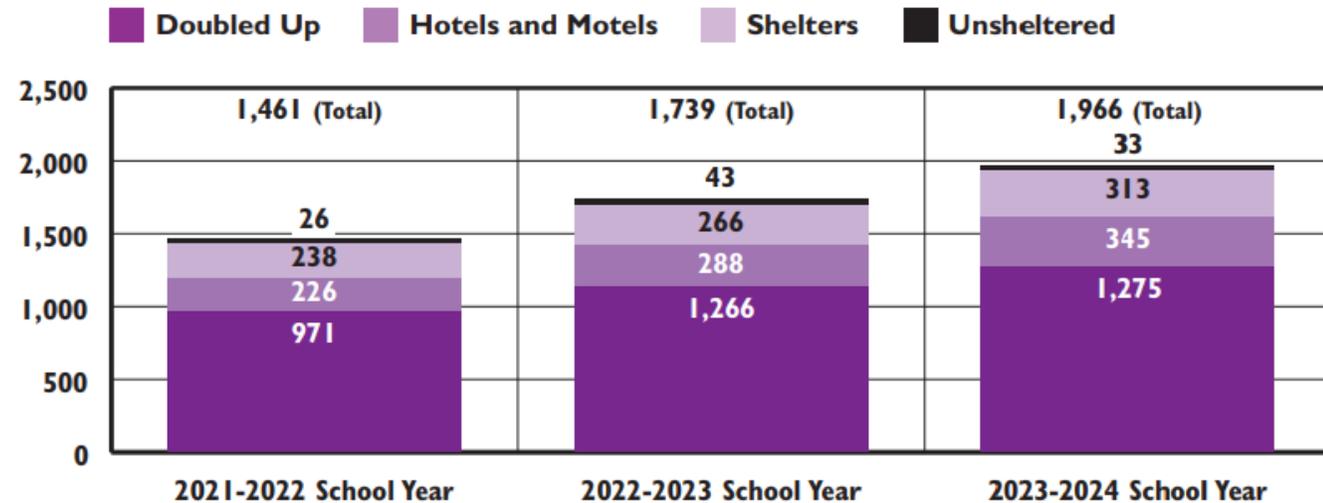
- In 2024, the average cost of rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Rhode Island was \$2,316.
 - In Middletown it was \$2,430.
 - In Newport it was \$2,270.

- In 2024, a worker would have to earn \$44.54 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 \$14.00 per hour in 2024.

More Children Experiencing Homelessness

- In 2024, 479 Rhode Island families with 951 children stayed at an emergency homeless shelter, domestic violence shelter, transitional housing facility or hotel paid for by DCYF, up from 363 families with 668 children in 2023.
- During the 2023-2024 school year, Rhode Island public school personnel identified 1,966 children as homeless. Of these children, 65% lived with other families (“doubled up”), 18% lived in hotels or motels, 16% lived in shelters, and 2% were unsheltered.
- Newport Public Schools personnel identified 51 children as homeless, up from 36 the previous year.**
- Middletown Public Schools personnel identified 87 children as homeless, down from 93 the previous year.**

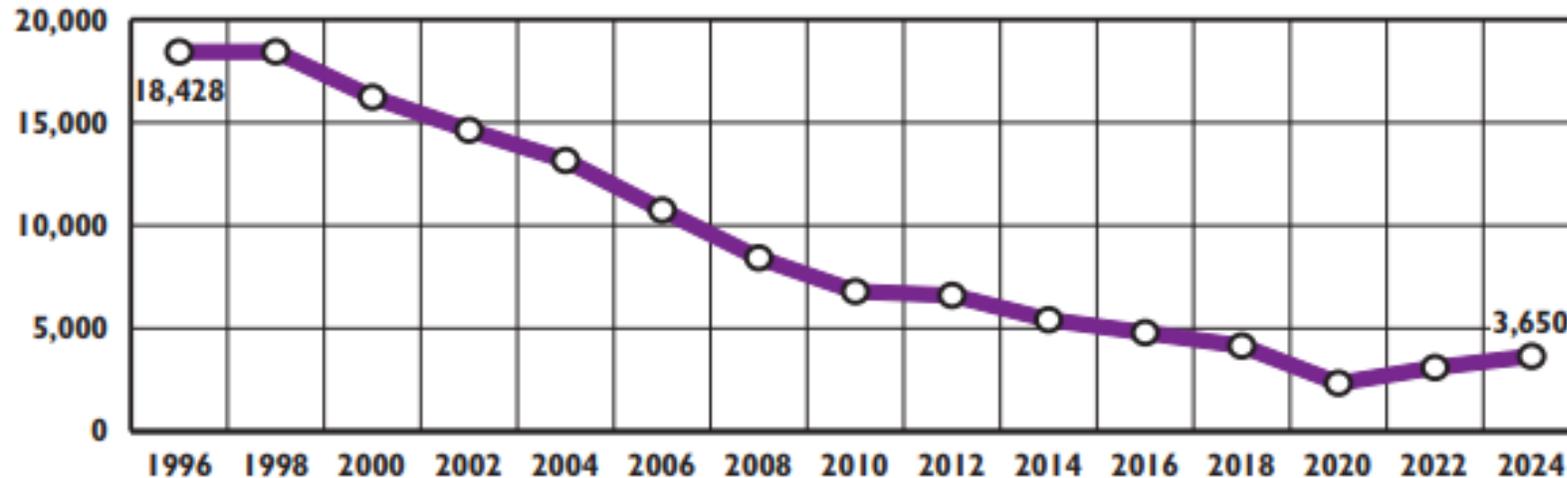

Homeless Children Identified by Public Schools, Rhode Island, 2021-2022 through 2023-2024 School Years



Children in Families Receiving Cash Assistance



Cash Assistance Caseload, Rhode Island, 1996–2024*

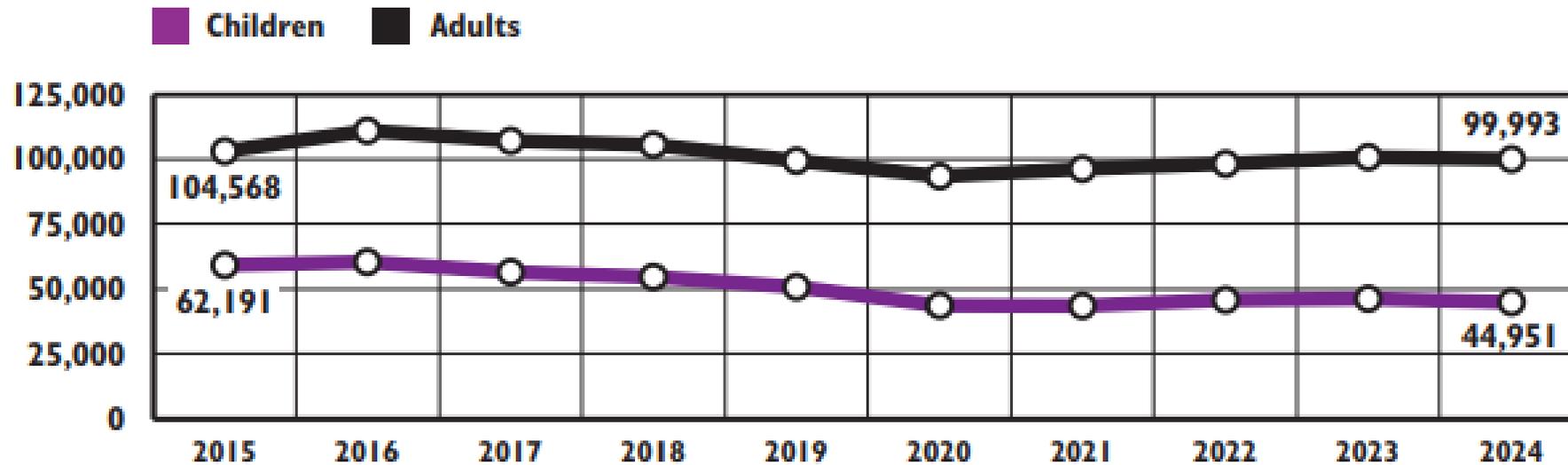


- The goal of the RI Works program is to help very low-income families meet their basic needs by providing cash assistance and work supports, including employment services, SNAP benefits, health insurance, and subsidized child care.
- The maximum monthly benefit for a family of three is \$865 per month. In 2021, benefits were increased for the first time in 30 years, but maximum benefits are 30% of the federal poverty threshold.
- In December 2024:
 - 54 Middletown families with 94 children received RI Works benefits
 - 132 Newport families with 250 children received RI Works benefits

How Can We Ensure that Rhode Island Children Are Fed?



Participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Children and Adults, Rhode Island, 2015-2024

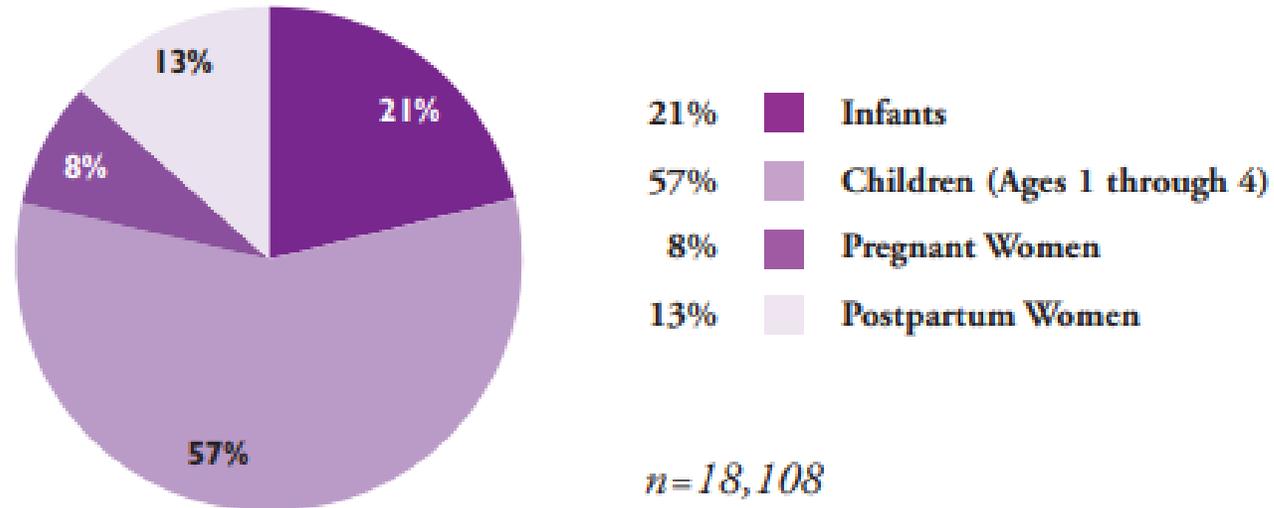


- Of the 144,944 Rhode Islanders enrolled in SNAP in October 2024, 69% were adults and 31% were children.
- In October 2024:
 - 394 children in Middletown received SNAP benefits
 - 942 children in Newport received SNAP benefits

Women and Children Participating in WIC



Women, Infants, and Children Enrolled in WIC, Rhode Island, September 2024



- WIC provides nutritious foods, including produce, whole grains, milk, and formula to pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women and babies and toddlers up through age 4.
- In September 2024:
 - 150 Middletown women and children were enrolled in WIC
 - 419 Newport women and children were enrolled in WIC

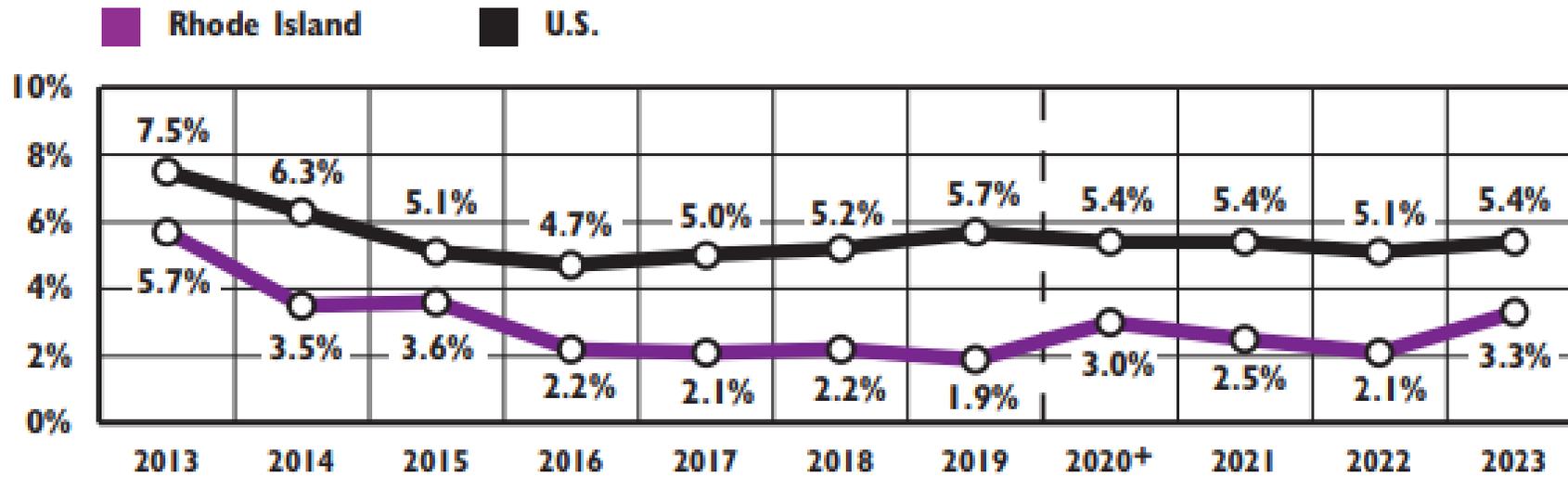


Health

How Can We Ensure that Rhode Island Children Are Insured?



Children Without Health Insurance, Rhode Island, 2013-2023

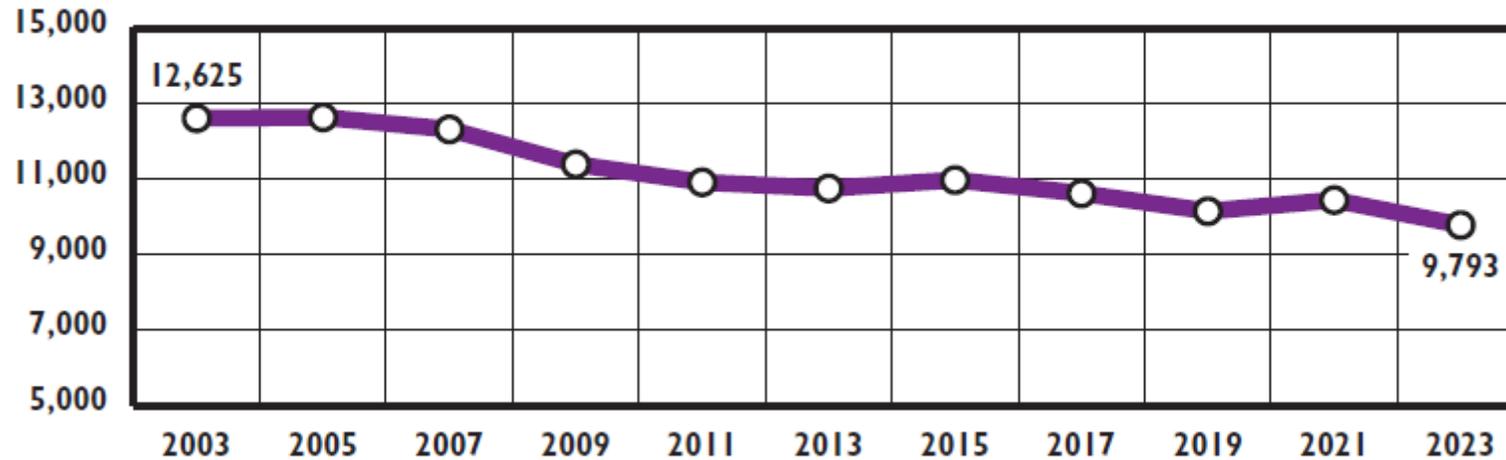


- Recently released data show that in 2024 in Rhode Island
 - ✓ 3.7% of children under age 19 were uninsured
 - ✓ Rhode Island ranks 12th best in the country
- **Cover All Kids** – all low-income kids now covered regardless of immigration status
- 117,890 children are covered by RItE Care
- 2,250 children are covered by HealthSource RI

Babies



Rhode Island Births, 2003-2023



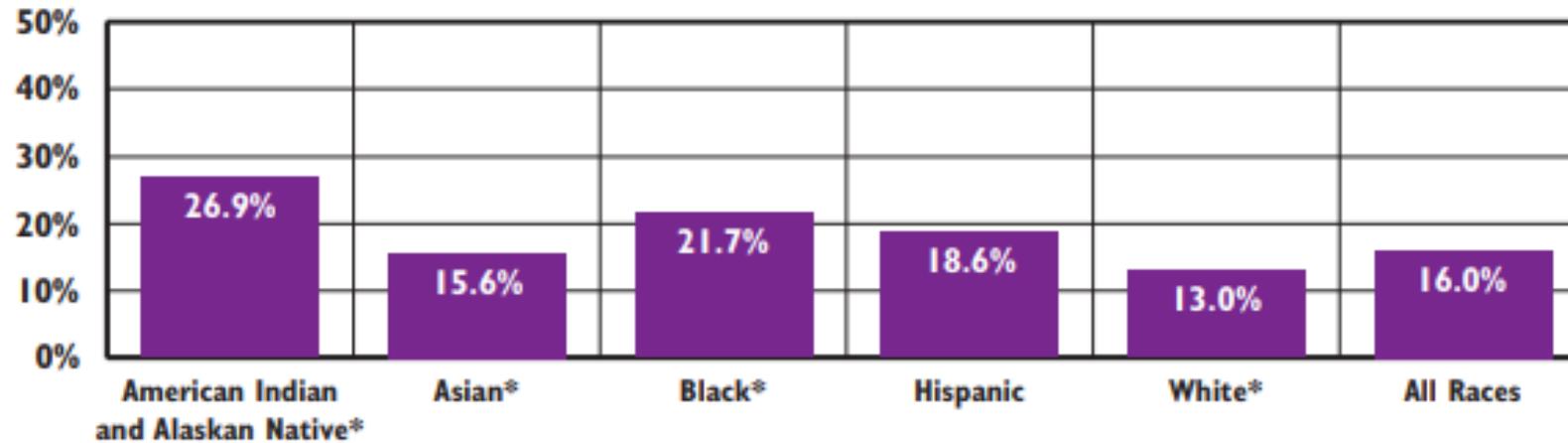
Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Vital Records, Rivers Database 2003-2023. Note: Birth data includes babies born to mothers living in Rhode Island at the time of birth whether the baby was born in Rhode Island or elsewhere.

- Births have been declining for the past decade, both nationally and in Rhode Island.
- Rhode Island has the 3rd lowest fertility rate among states -- 47.5 births per 1,000 women ages 15 to 44.
- There is an increasingly diverse child population both in Rhode Island (46% babies of color) and nationally.
- In 2024:
 - There were 198 babies born to Newport moms, 37% to families with Medicaid/Rlte Care.
 - There were 120 babies born to Middletown moms, 24% to families with Medicaid/Rlte Care.

Maternal Health



Women With Delayed or No Prenatal Care by Race/Ethnicity, Rhode Island, 2019-2023

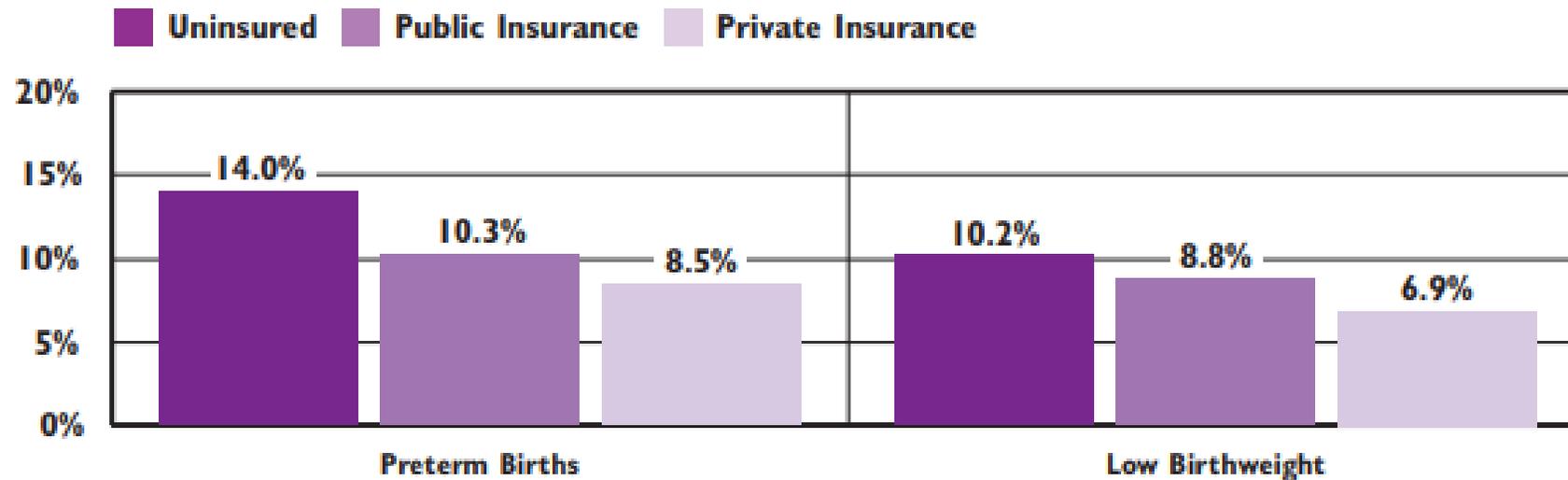


- Between 2019 and 2023 in Rhode Island, American Indian and Alaskan Native, Black, Hispanic, and Asian women were more likely to receive delayed prenatal care than white women.
- From 2019-2023:
 - In Middletown, 12.3% of women had delayed prenatal care.
 - In Newport, 16.5% of women had delayed prenatal care.

Infant Health



Preterm Birth and Low Birthweight by Mother's Insurance Status, Rhode Island, 2019-2023

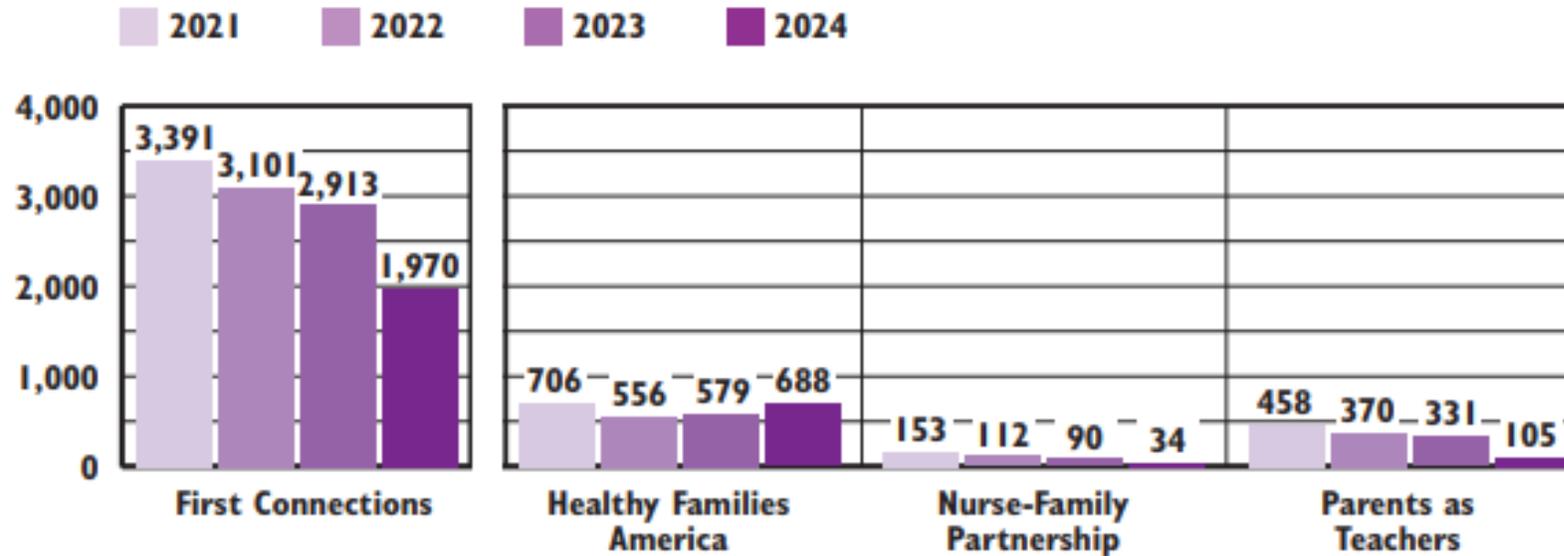


- Social determinants of health, including poverty, racism, and access to care are important factors related to disparities in preterm birth rates.
- From 2019-2023:
 - 7.2% of Middletown births were preterm and 6.1% were low birthweight
 - 8.3% of Newport births were preterm and 7.3% were low birthweight

Family Home Visiting



Family Home Visiting Program Participation, Rhode Island, 2021-2024



- Family home visiting programs are designed to reach young children and their families at home, providing parenting education to foster healthy, safe, and stimulating environments for young children.
- In 2024:
 - 23 Middletown families and 43 Newport families received a First Connections visit
 - 8 Middletown families and 8 Newport families were enrolled in Healthy Families America or Parents as Teachers



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, 2024, 67% of Rhode Island inmates surveyed reported having children. 94% were fathers and 6% were mothers. A total of 1,586 parents reported 3,994 children.
 - Newport has the highest rate of children with incarcerated parents in the state with 77 children reported, 21.0 per 1,000 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

Victims of Child Neglect and Abuse per 1,000 Children, 2024



In 2024, 52 Newport children and 22 Middletown children were reported victims of child neglect and abuse.

Newport's child neglect and abuse victim rate was **14.2 victims per 1,000** children in 2024, down from 18.9 in 2023, but still close to the four core city rate.

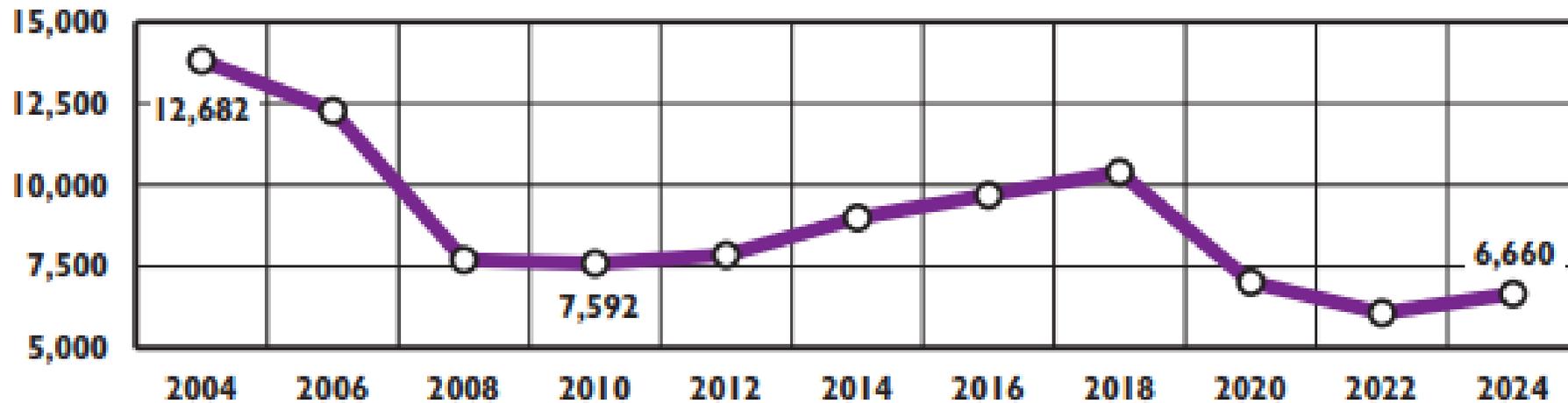


Education

Children Receiving Child Care Subsidies



Child Care Subsidies, Rhode Island, Selected Years 2004 - 2024

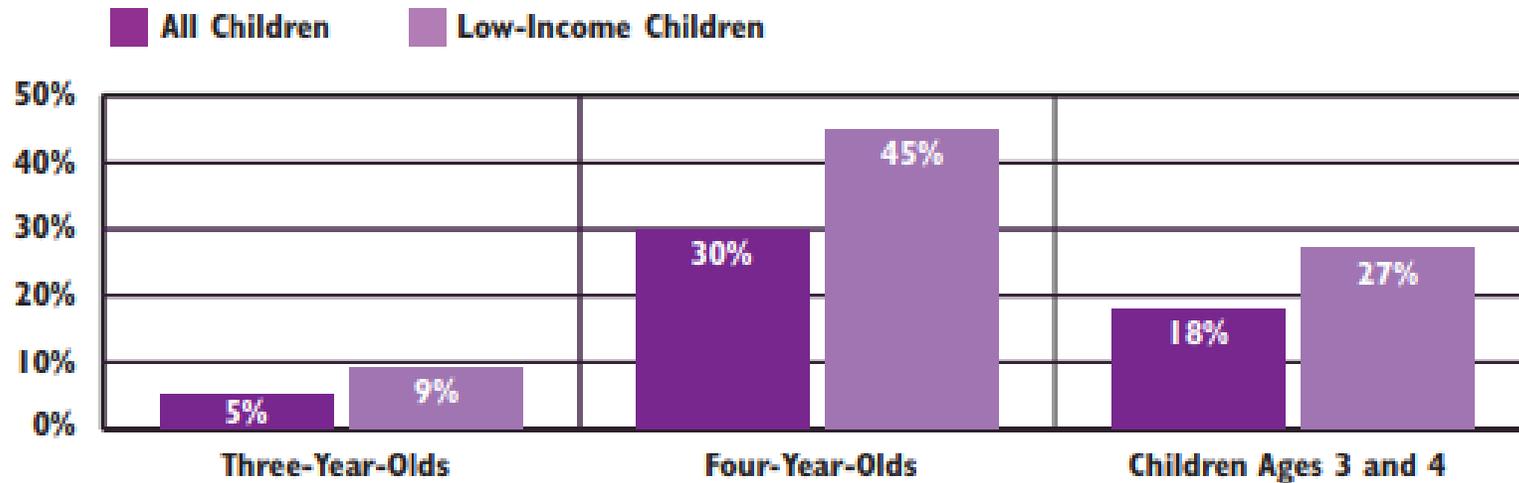


- In December 2024, there were 6,660 child care subsidies in Rhode Island, down 37% from December 2019 (pre-pandemic) and down 54% from the 2003 peak.
- In December 2024:
 - 71 Middletown children received child care subsidies to help their parents afford the high cost of child care
 - 163 Newport children received child care subsidies to help their parents afford the high cost of child care

Opportunities for High-Quality Early Childhood Education in Newport

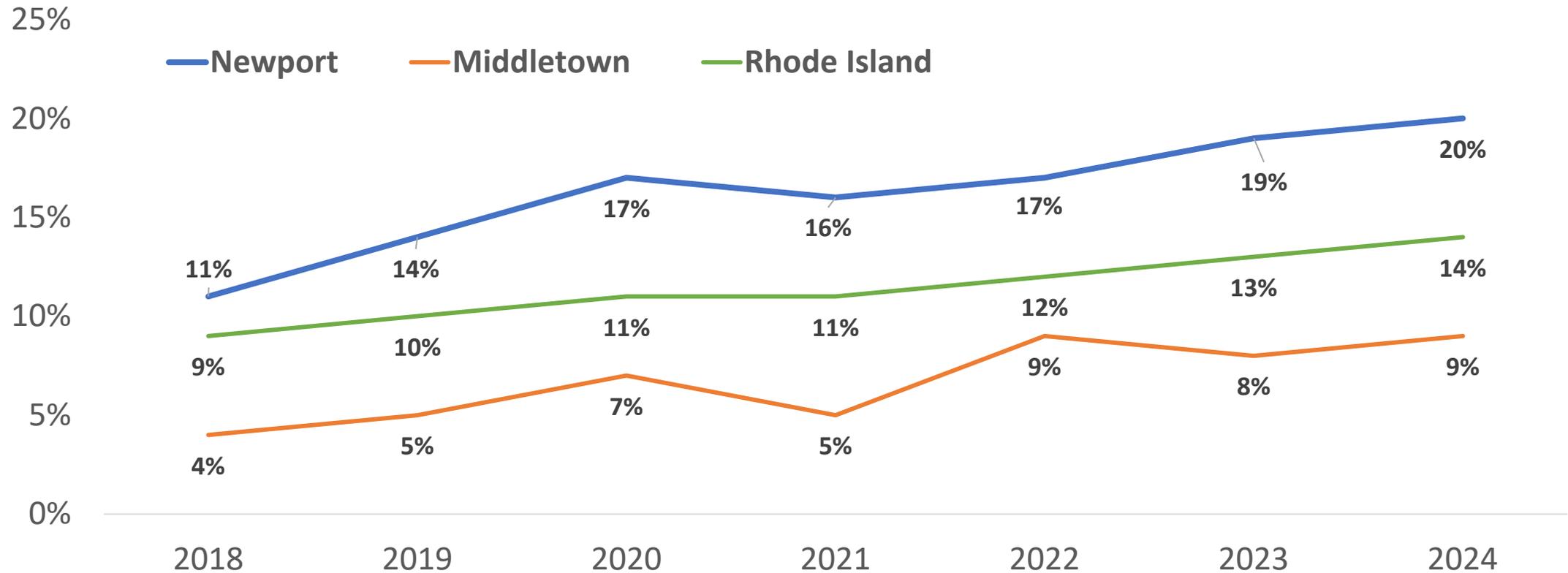


Percentage of Children Ages 3 and 4 Enrolled in Head Start and/or RI Pre-K, Rhode Island, 2024-2025



- **17% of all Newport children and 18% of low-income children in Newport ages 3 and 4** were enrolled in either Head Start or RI Pre-K.
- **23% of all Middletown children and 40% of low-income children in Middletown ages 3 and 4** were enrolled in either Head Start or RI Pre-K.

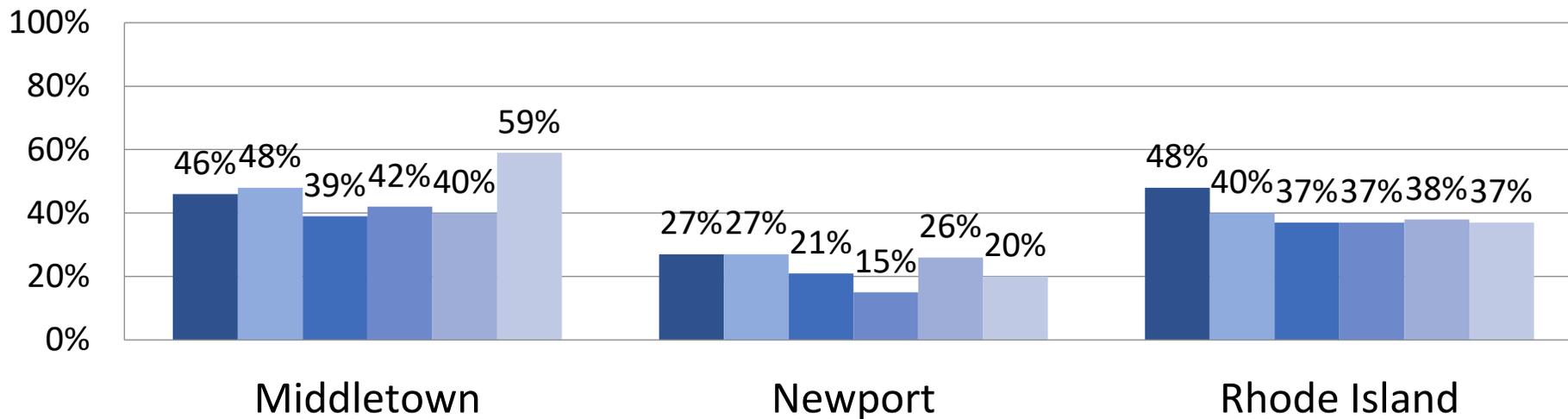
Growing Number of Multilingual Students



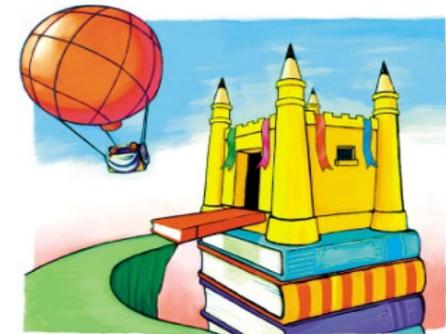
Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, 2017-2018 through 2023-2024 school years.

Third-Grade Reading Skills Before and After Pandemic

Third-Graders Meeting Expectations in Reading 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025



Source: Rhode Island Department of Education,
Rhode Island Comprehensive Assessment System (RICAS), 2021-2025.



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

**All Newport 3rd Graders
Meeting Expectations, 2025** **20%**

Female	25%
Male	15%
Students With Disabilities	<5%
Students Without Disabilities	28%
Multilingual Learners	<5%
Low-Income Students	13%
Higher-Income Students	46%
Black Students	10%
Hispanic Students	10%
Multiracial Students	Not avail
White Students	44%

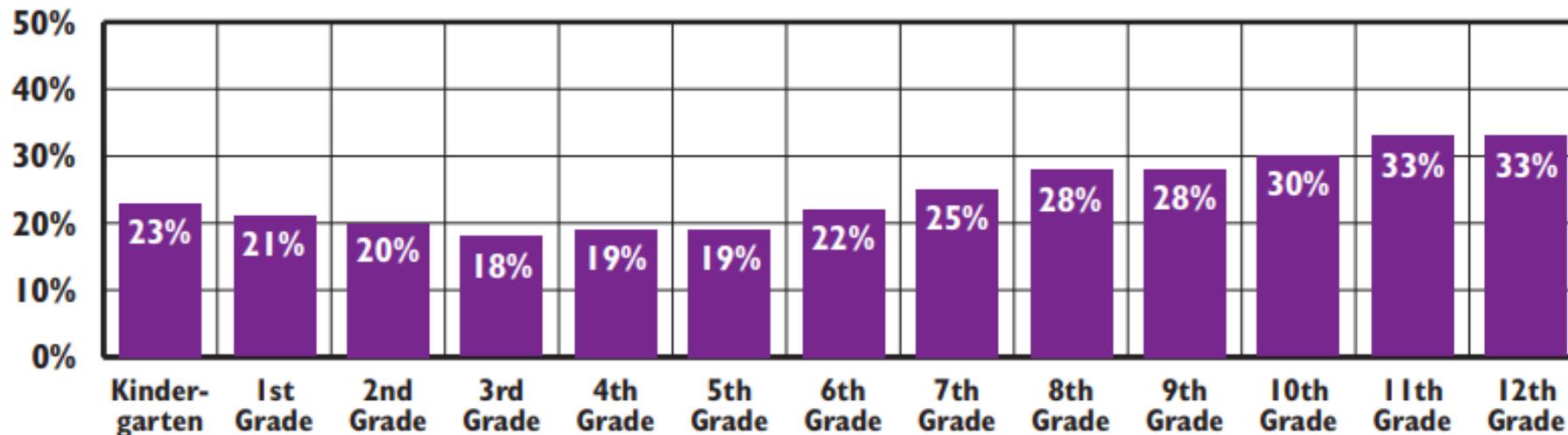
**All Middletown 3rd Graders
Meeting or Exceeding
Expectations, 2025** **59%**

Female	70%
Male	50%
Students With Disabilities	12%
Students Without Disabilities	73%
Multilingual Learners	39%
Low-Income Students	46%
Higher-Income Students	69%
Black Students	64%
Hispanic Students	47%
Multiracial Students	50%
White Students	63%

Chronic Absence Rates Declining Statewide

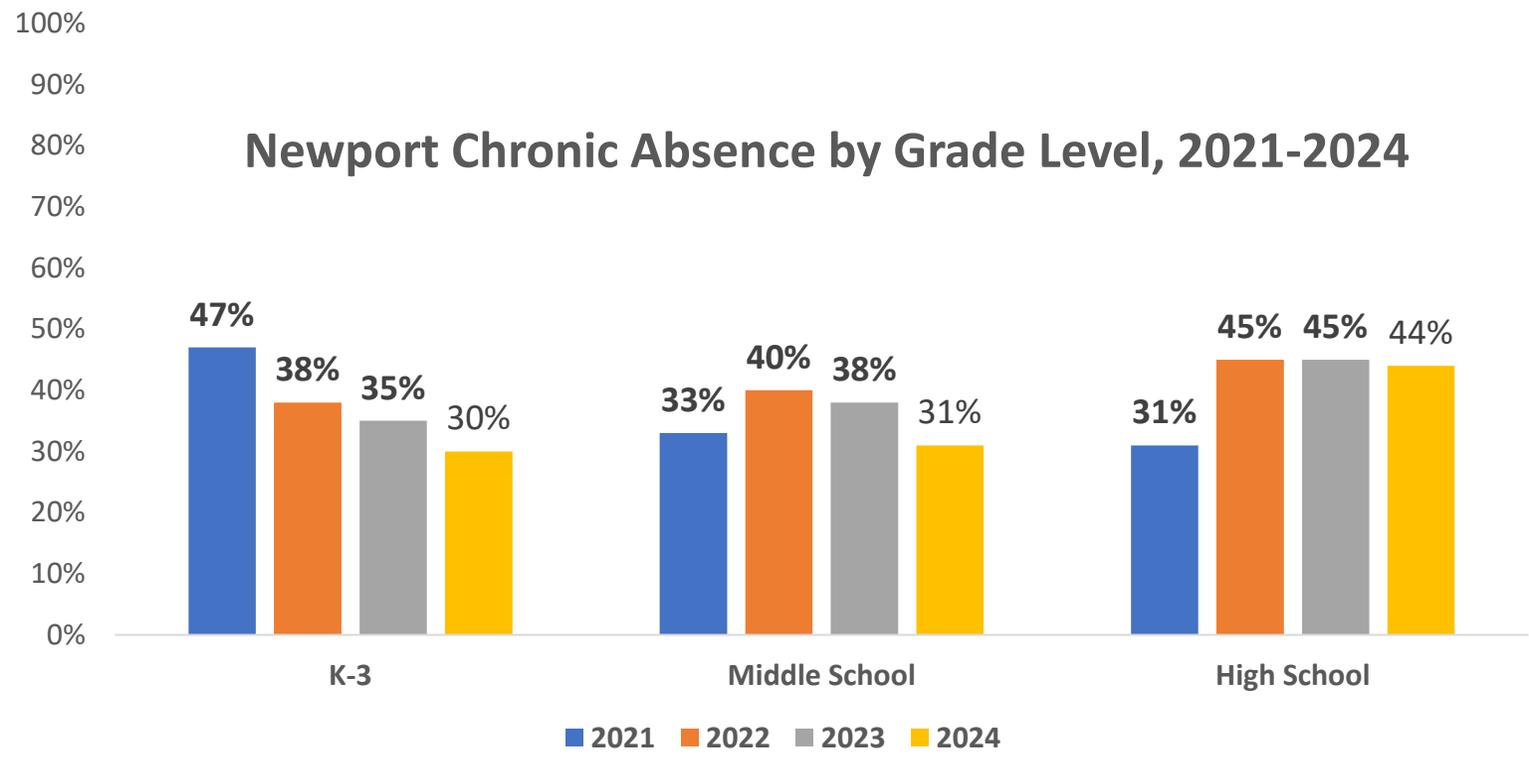


Chronic Absence Rates in Rhode Island by Grade, 2023-2024 School Year



- Chronic absence is the percentage of students who have missed at least 10% of the school year (i.e., 18 days or more), including excused and unexcused absences.

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



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



Students Served by 21st Century Community Learning Centers by Grade Span, Rhode Island, 2023-2024 School Year

SCHOOL DISTRICT	GRADES PK-3	GRADES 4-5	GRADES 6-8	GRADES 9-12	TOTAL
Central Falls	<10	<10	11	32	43
Cranston	64	32	66	<10	162
East Providence	92	36	177	<10	305
Newport	217	131	231	212	791
Pawtucket	550	400	49	<10	999
Providence	194	113	667	644	1,618
West Warwick	90	40	<10	<10	130
Woonsocket	318	173	126	144	761
<i>Charter Schools</i>	<i>89</i>	<i>72</i>	<i>56</i>	<i>102</i>	<i>319</i>
<i>DCYF</i>	<i><10</i>	<i><10</i>	<i><10</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>UCAP</i>	<i><10</i>	<i><10</i>	<i>71</i>	<i><10</i>	<i>71</i>
Total	1,614	997	1,455	1,153	5,219

Source: RI Department of Education, Office of Student, Community and Academic Supports, 2023-2024 school year. Data are not unduplicated as students can be served by more than one grantee. Beginning in 2021-2022, data includes only students who participated in 21st Century CLC programs for at least 15 hours. DCYF is the Rhode Island Training School. UCAP is the Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program.

School Suspensions

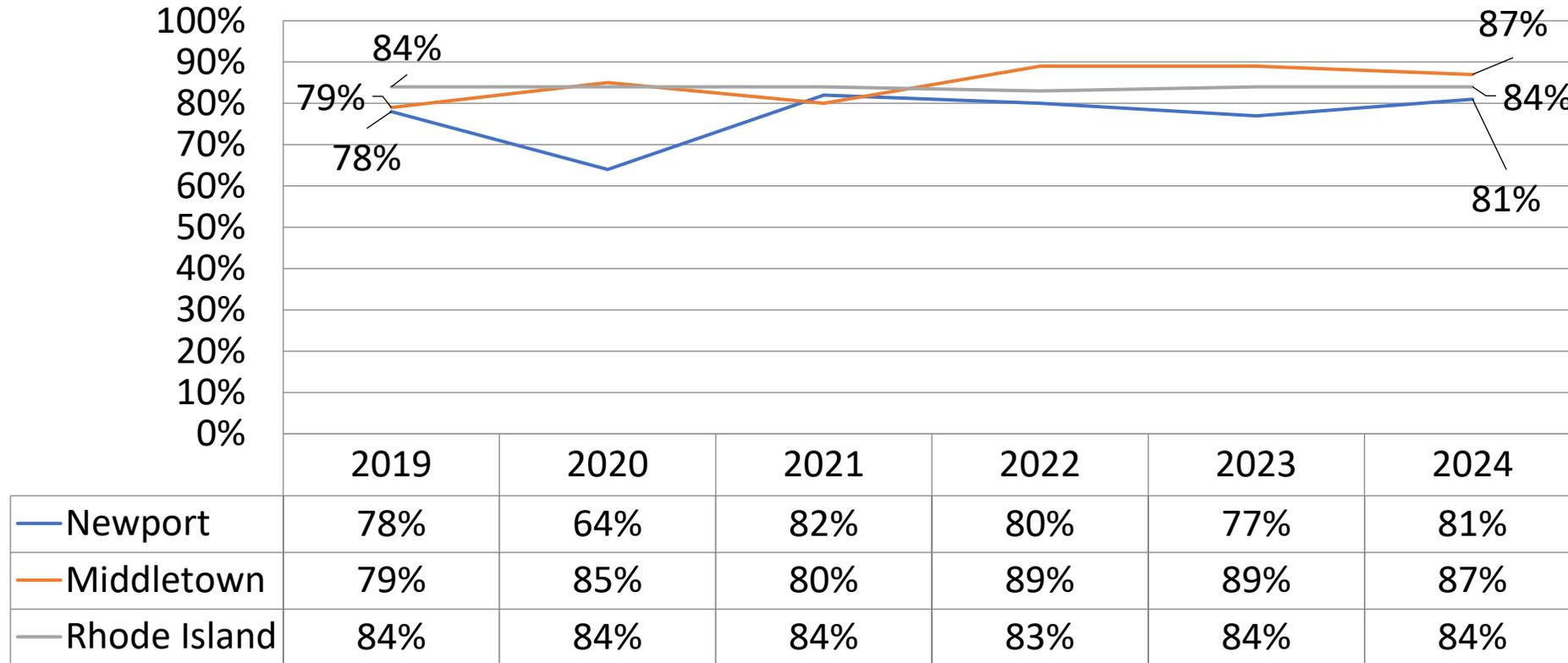


Out-of-School Suspensions by Infraction, Rhode Island, 2023-2024

TYPE OF INFRACTION*	#	%	TYPE OF INFRACTION	#	%
Fighting	2,204	24%	Obscene/Abusive Language	386	4%
Disorderly Conduct	1,580	17%	Weapon Possession	244	3%
Insubordination/Disrespect	1,337	15%	Arson/Larceny/Robbery/Vandalism	184	2%
Assault of Student or Teacher	1,274	14%	Electronic Devices/Technology	99	1%
Alcohol/Drug/Tobacco Offenses	1,117	12%	Other Offenses	55	1%
Harassment/Intimidation/Threat	728	8%	Attendance Offenses	0	0%

- 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.
- During the 2023-2024 school year:
 - Middletown gave in-school suspensions to 26 students and out-of-school suspensions to 86 students.
 - Newport gave in-school suspensions to <5 students and out-of-school suspensions to 355 students.

High School Graduation Rate, 2019-2024



Of the 156 Newport students who entered 9th grade in the 2020-2021 school year and were expected to graduate in 2024, **81% graduated in 4 years**, 12% dropped out, 3% obtained a GED, and 4% were still in school.

Who Is Graduating On Time and Why?

All Newport Students	81%
CTE Concentrators	91%
Non-CTE Concentrators	63%
Students With Disabilities	57%
Students Without Disabilities	87%
Multilingual Learners	80%
Low-Income Students	77%
Higher-Income Students	89%
Black Students	86%
Hispanic Students	78%
Multiracial Students	59%
White Students	90%



Who Is Graduating On Time and Why?

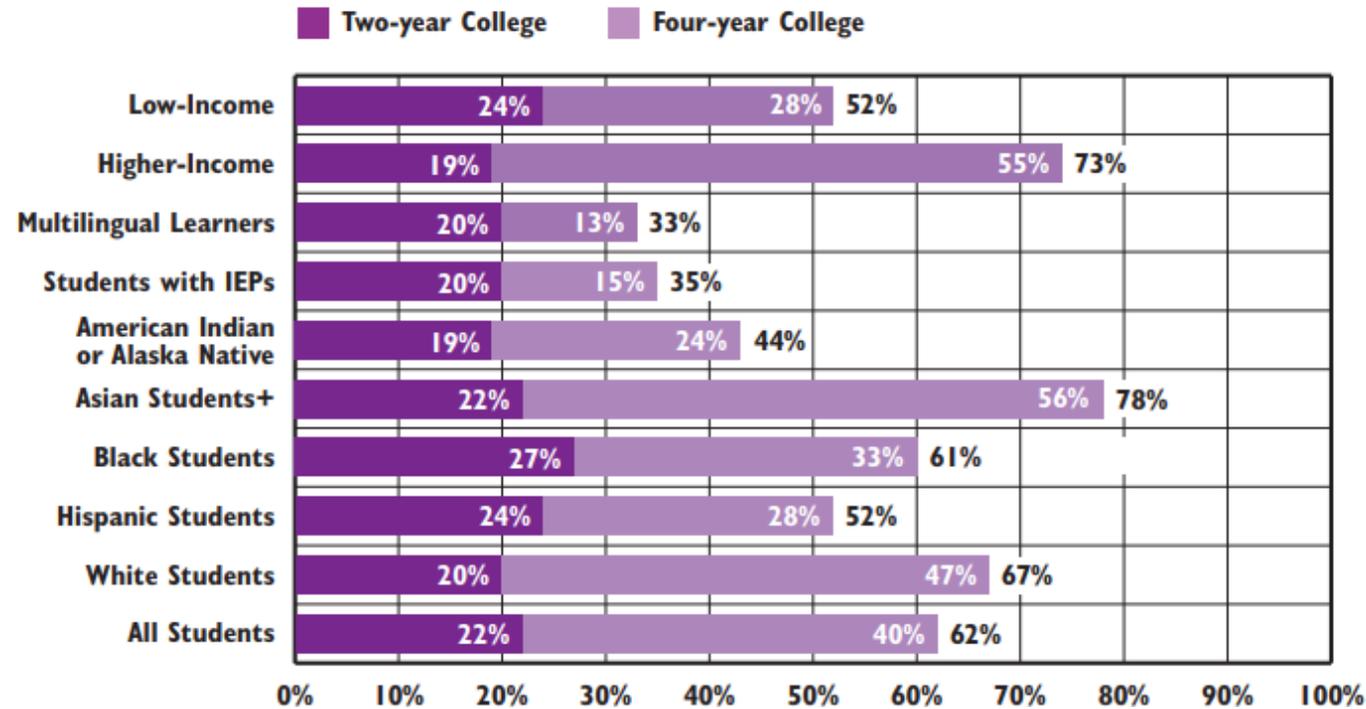


All Middletown Students	87%
CTE Concentrators	98%
Non-CTE Concentrators	81%
Students With Disabilities	65%
Students Without Disabilities	91%
Multilingual Learners	50%
Low-Income Students	77%
Higher-Income Students	93%
Black Students	NA
Hispanic Students	69%
Multiracial Students	93%
White Students	91%

College Enrollment



Immediate College Enrollment by Family Income, Race, Ethnicity, and Type of College, Class of 2024, Rhode Island



- 62% percent of Rhode Island students, 52% of Newport students, and 69% of Middletown students who graduated from high school in the Class of 2024 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.

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