

Providence Data in Your Backyard

Findings from the *2026 Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Factbook*

Presented by Stephanie Geller

Rhode Island KIDS COUNT

September 30, 2026

Providence, Rhode Island



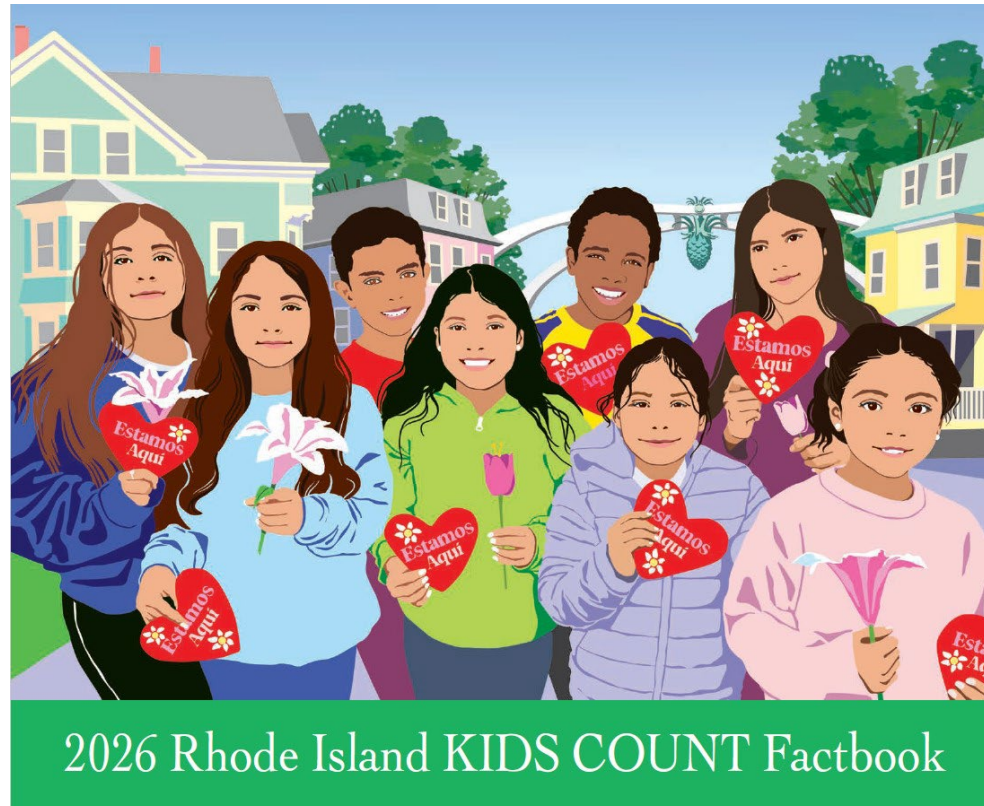
2026 Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Factbook

This presentation is made possible by a
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2026 Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Factbook

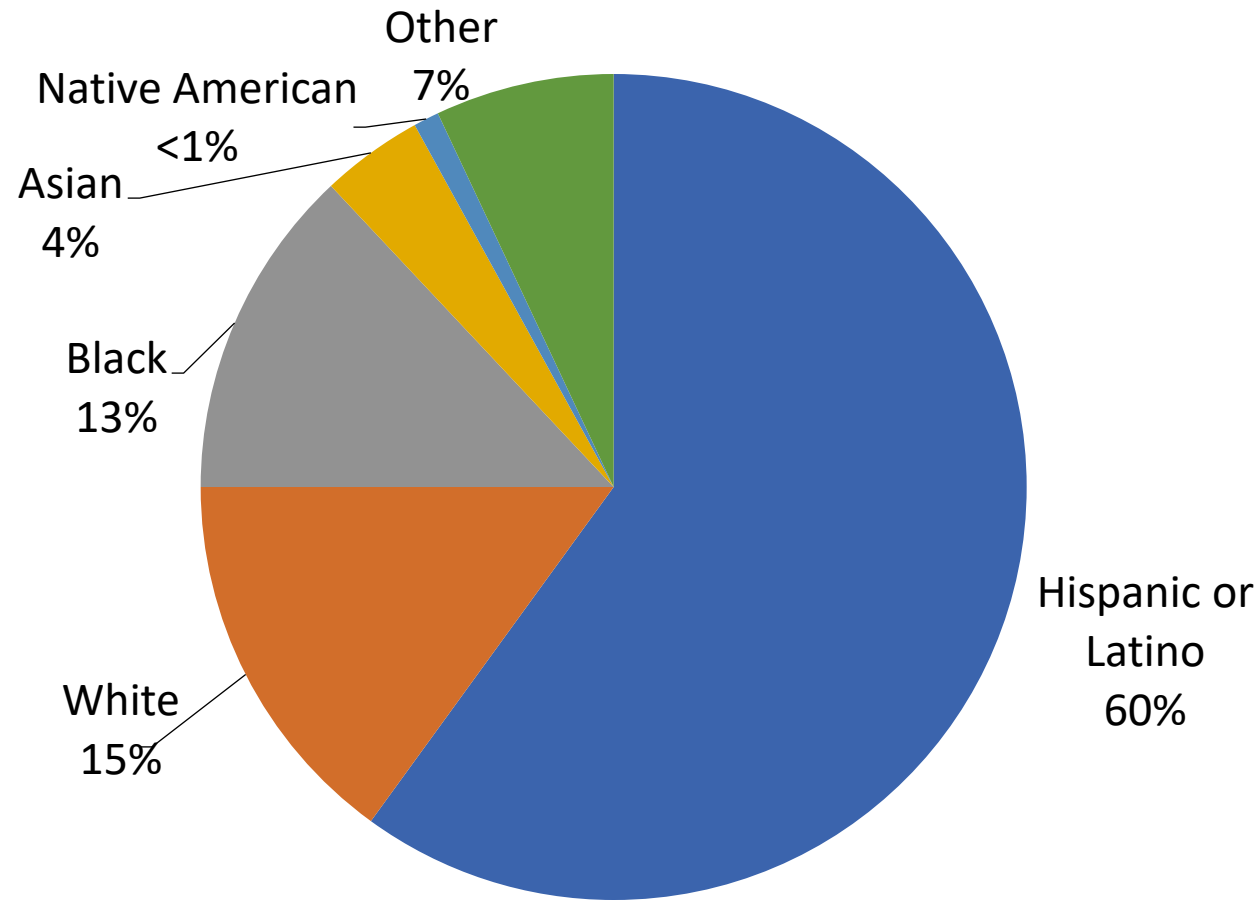
32nd annual publication
67 indicators across 5 areas
City and town-level information





Family and Community

Providence's Child Population, 2020



n=41,021

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2020, Tables P2 and P4.

Rhode Island's Immigrant Children and Youth

- 30% of Rhode Island children live in an immigrant family
- From 2012 to 2025, the number of public-school students identified as being immigrants has more than tripled
- 10-24% of children live in mixed-status families





Economic Well-Being

How Do We Define Poverty?

- Poverty threshold in 2025
 - \$25,938 for a family of 3
 - \$32,649 for a family of 4
- Extreme poverty in 2025
 - \$12,969 for a family of 3
 - \$16,325 for a family of 4
- *2026 Rhode Island Standard of Need*
 - Single-parent family with 2 children would need \$91,234 a year to meet its basic needs, which would require a pre-tax income of \$111,667 (or \$53.29 per hour) to meet this budget without governmental subsidies.
- *ALICE: Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed*





Child Poverty Concentrated in Five Core Cities, Rhode Island, 2020-2024

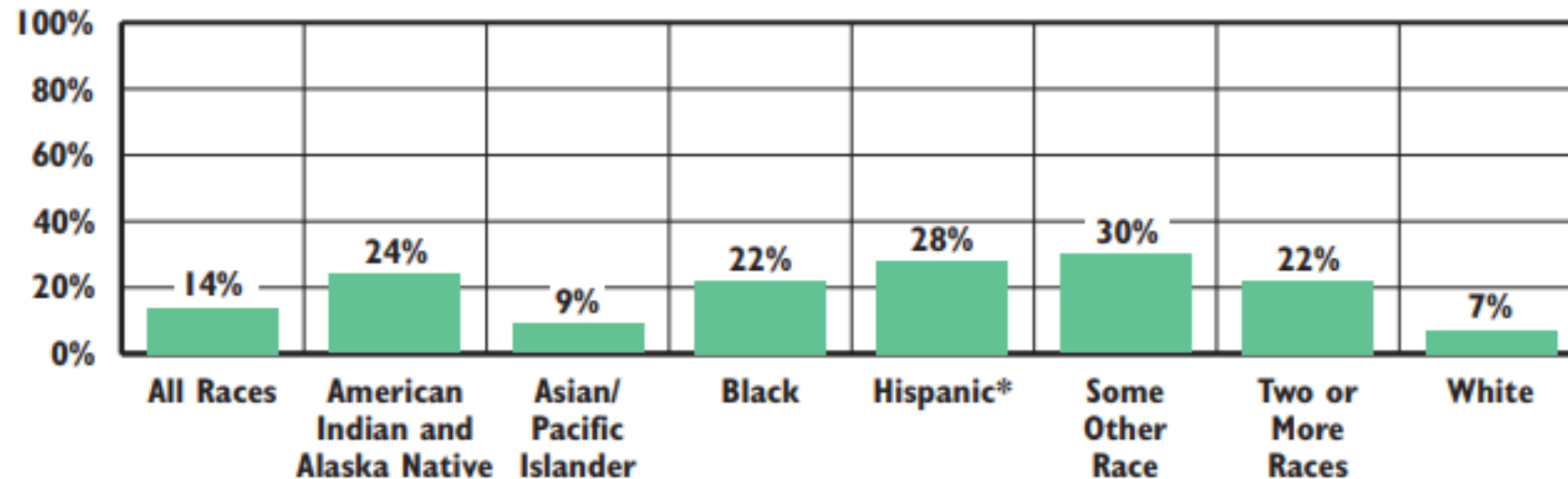
CITY/TOWN	NUMBER IN POVERTY	PERCENTAGE IN POVERTY	NUMBER IN EXTREME POVERTY	PERCENTAGE IN EXTREME POVERTY
Central Falls*	1,977	33%	948	16%
Newport*	1,053	32%	433	13%
Pawtucket	2,882	17%	1,395	8%
Providence	10,515	28%	6,453	17%
Woonsocket*	2,828	28%	1,513	15%
<i>Rhode Island</i>	<i>27,964</i>	<i>14%</i>	<i>15,936</i>	<i>8%</i>

Source: Population Reference Bureau analysis of 2020-2024 American Community Survey data. *Child poverty estimates have high margins of error due to small sample sizes.

Large Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Child Poverty



Children in Poverty, by Race and Ethnicity, Rhode Island, 2020-2024

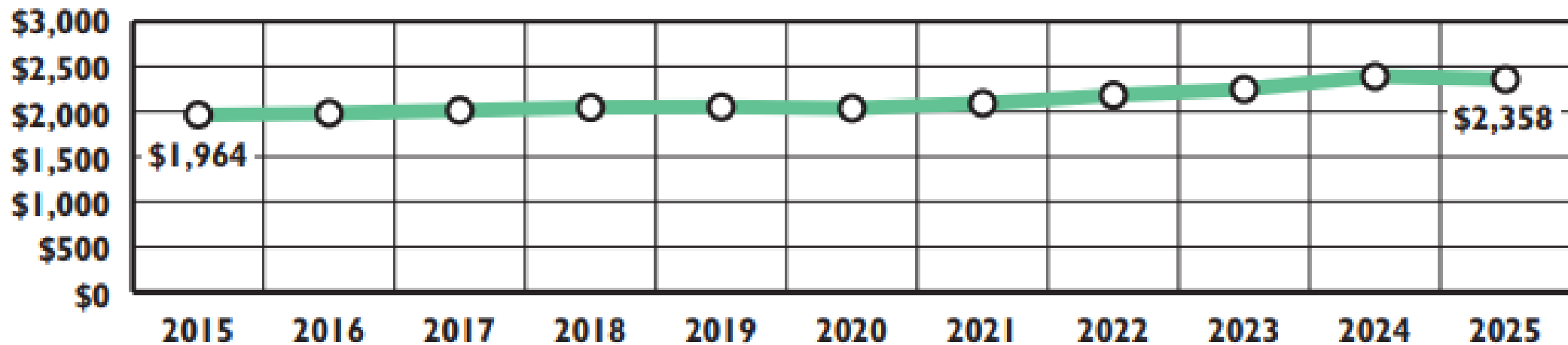


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2020-2024. Tables B17020, B17020A, B17020B, B17020C, B17020D, B17020E, B17020F, B17020G and B17020I. *Hispanic children may be included in any race category.

Cost of Housing



Average Rent, Two-Bedroom Apartment, Rhode Island, 2015-2025

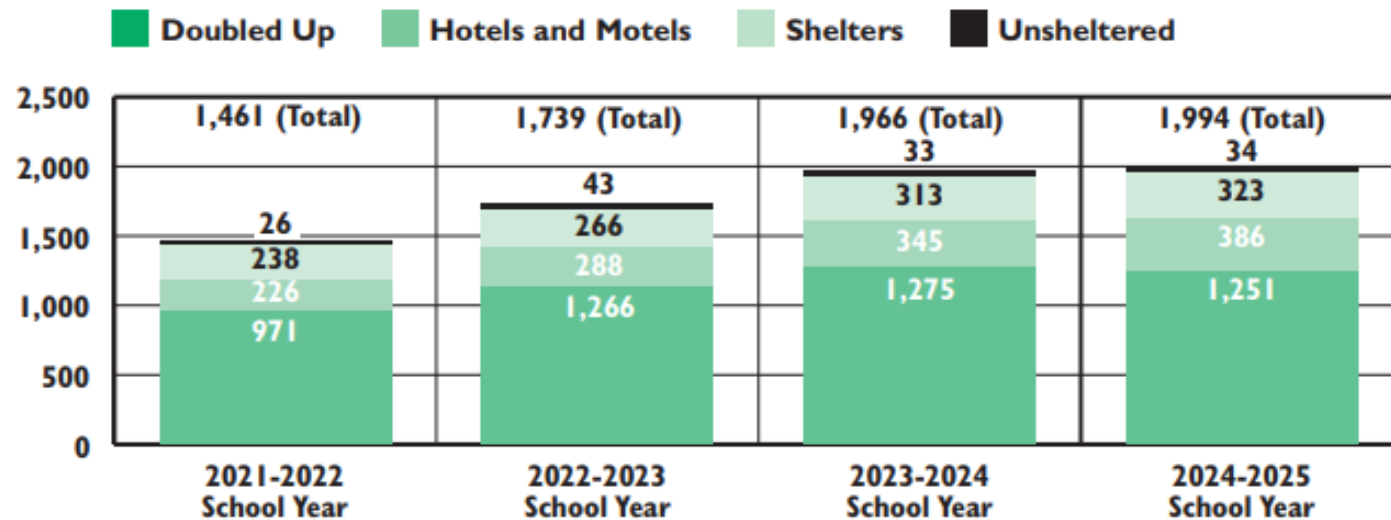


- In 2025, the average rent for a 2-BR apartment in Providence was:
 - \$2,396, including utilities, in Providence
- A family of three with an income at the federal poverty level would have to spend:
 - More than they earn (108% of their income) on rent in Providence

More Children Experiencing Homelessness



Homeless Children Identified by Public Schools, Rhode Island, 2021-2022 through 2024-2025 School Years



During the 2024-2025 school year, **Providence** public school personnel identified 325 students as homeless.

- 46% were doubled up
- 31% were in shelters
- 20% were in hotels or motels
- 3% were unsheltered

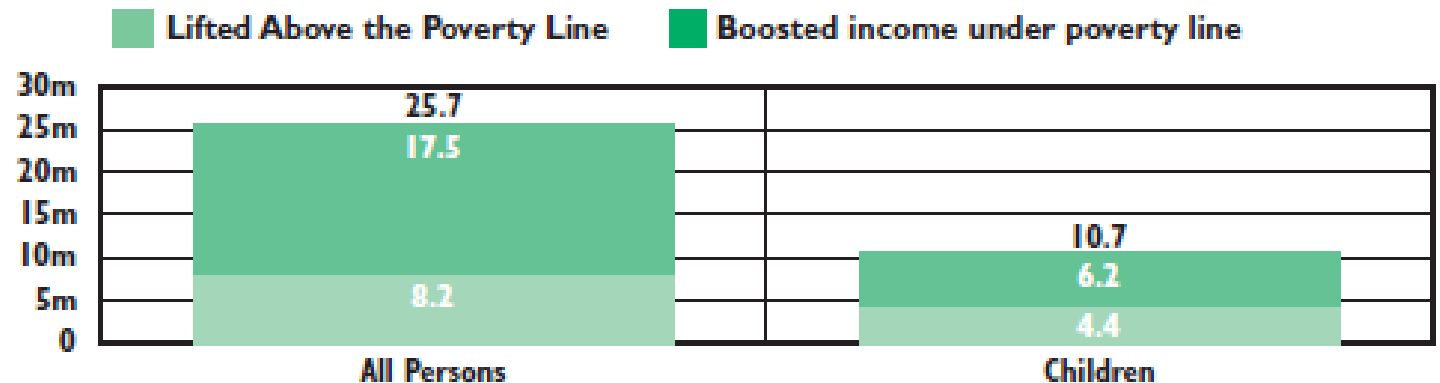
Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years.

New indicator: Family Tax Credits

- The FY 2027 budget includes Rhode Island's first permanent, refundable Child Tax Credit
- \$325/child
- In 2024, more than 20,000 Providence residents received almost \$57M in federal EITC



Impact of Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit, United States, 2024

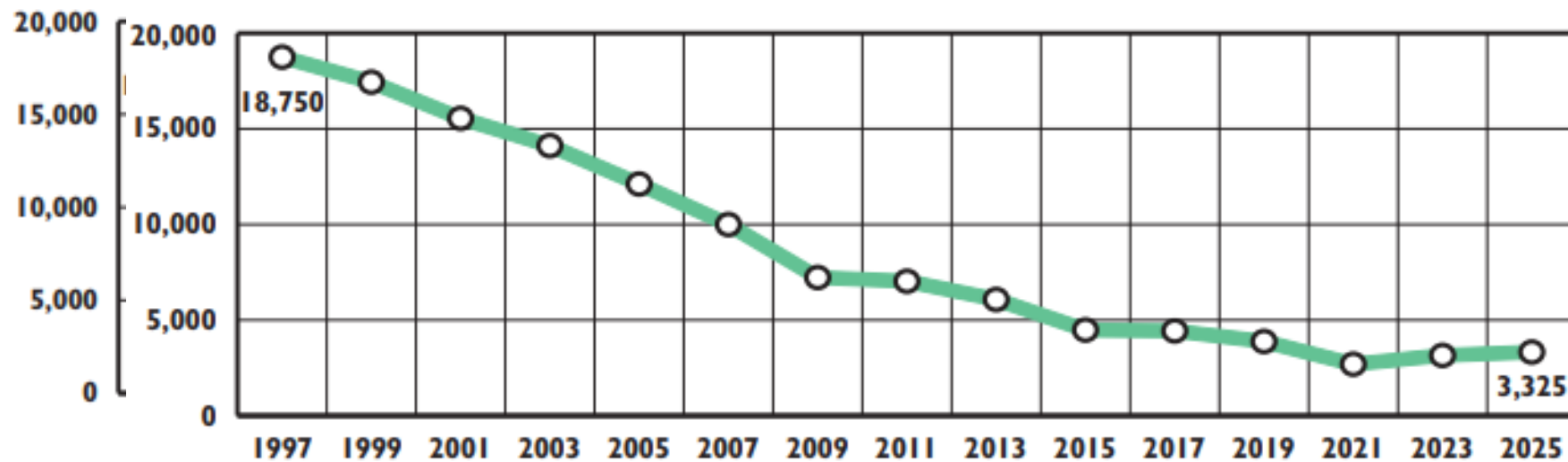


Source: Analyses were conducted by and the graph was created by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (2026). These data reflect the Supplemental Poverty Measure threshold which includes non-cash government programs, such as housing and food assistance. The data are from the Census Bureau March 2025 Current Population Survey.

Children in Families Receiving Cash Assistance



Cash Assistance Caseload, Rhode Island, 1997–2025*

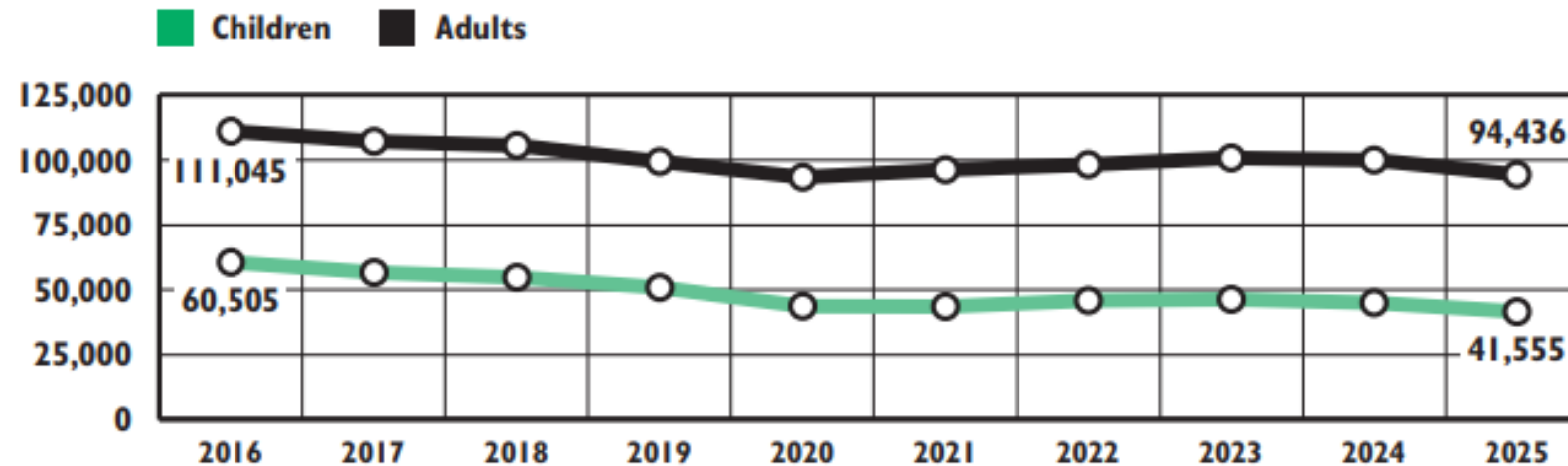


- **6% (2,302) of children in Providence receive cash assistance.**
- 70% of RI Works beneficiaries are children under age 18.
- A family of 3 receives a maximum of \$865/month, well below the poverty level, and benefits have only been raised twice in the past 30 years.

How Can We Ensure that Rhode Island Children Are Fed?



Participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, Children and Adults, Rhode Island, 2016-2025



Number of children receiving SNAP benefits has declined 31% over past decade.

Source: Rhode Island Department of Human Services, RI Bridges Database, 2016-2025. Data represent children under age 18 and adults who participated in SNAP during the month of October.

- Of the 135,991 Rhode Islanders enrolled in SNAP in October 2025, 69% were adults and 31% were children.
- In October 2025:
 - 15,109 children in Providence received SNAP benefits

SNAP Caseload and Impact Analysis

This is an overview of the change in RI's SNAP caseload from the time of initial HR1 passage to the present.

SNAP Caseload Data						
	July 2025	Nov 2025	March 2026	May 2026	July 2026	% Decrease July 25 – July 26
Total # of SNAP Recipients	141,363	133,733	126,084	122,875	116,375	17.7%
Total # of SNAP Households	88,340	84,416	80,537	78,969	74,014	16.2%
Total # of 60+ <u>Indv</u> receiving SNAP	38,507	37,683	36,863	36,537	35,371	8.14%
Total # of SNAP Recipients Age 0-17	41,808	39,649	37,200	36,162	35,881	14.2%
Total # of SNAP Recipients Age 0-5	12,176	12,116	11,806	11,728	9,662	20.6%

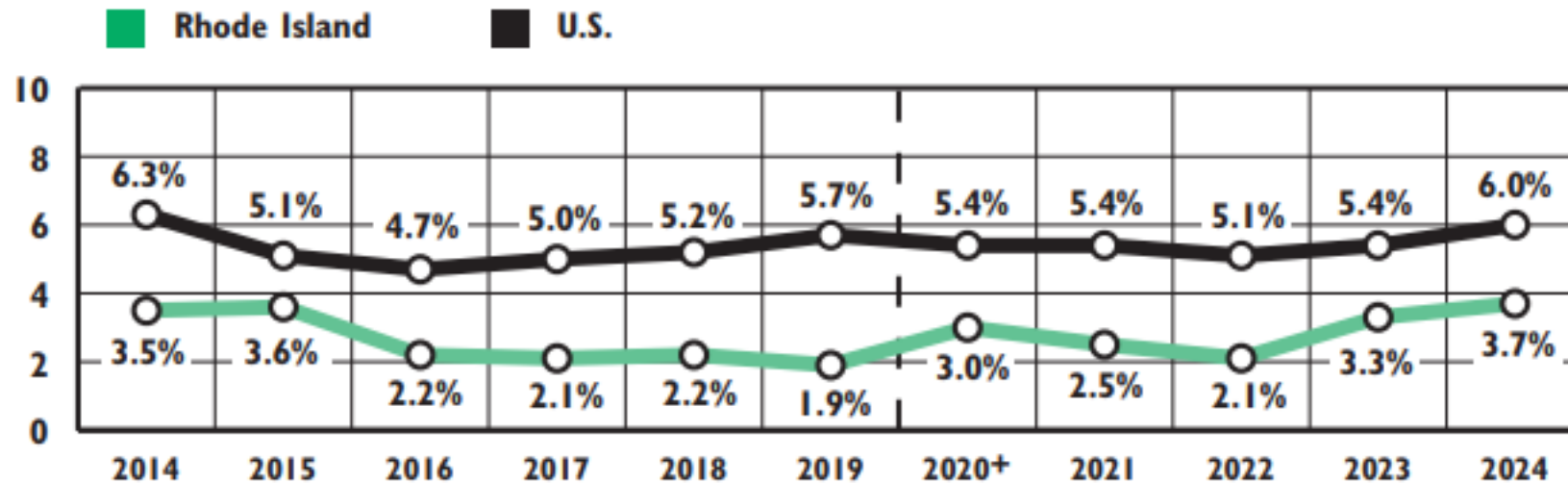
Just under \$5.5M less in SNAP benefits were issued in July of 2026
as compared to July 2025.



How Can We Ensure that Rhode Island Children Are Insured?



Children Without Health Insurance, Rhode Island, 2014-2024

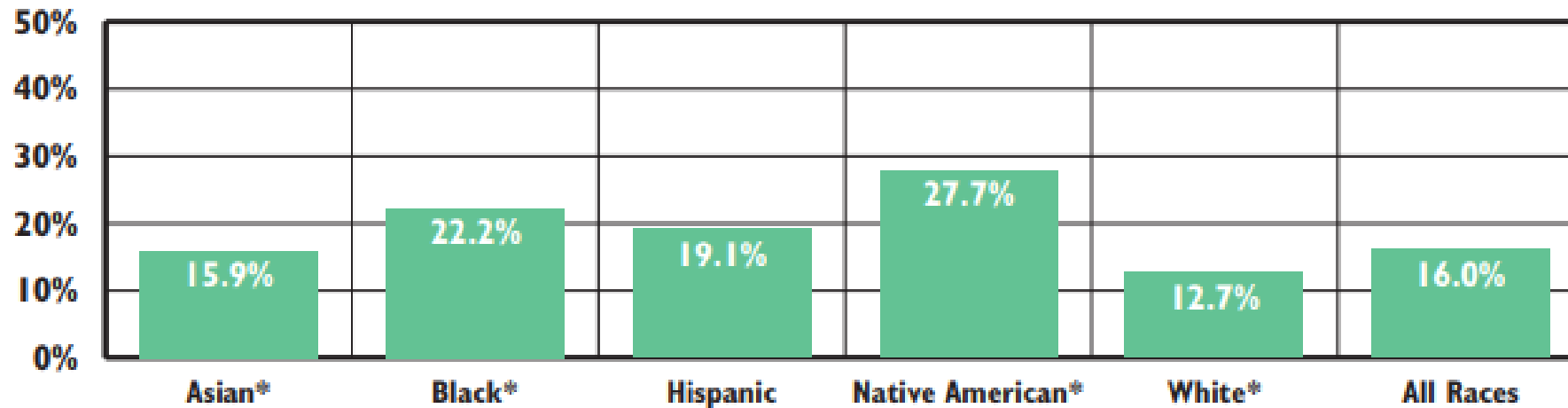


- Data released last fall show that in 2024 in Rhode Island:
 - ✓ 3.7% of children under age 19 were uninsured
 - ✓ Rhode Island ranks 12th best in the country
- **Cover All Kids** – all low-income kids now covered regardless of immigration status
- 113,696 children are covered by Rlte Care (38,672 in Providence)

Maternal Health



Women With Delayed or No Prenatal Care by Race/Ethnicity, Rhode Island, 2020-2024

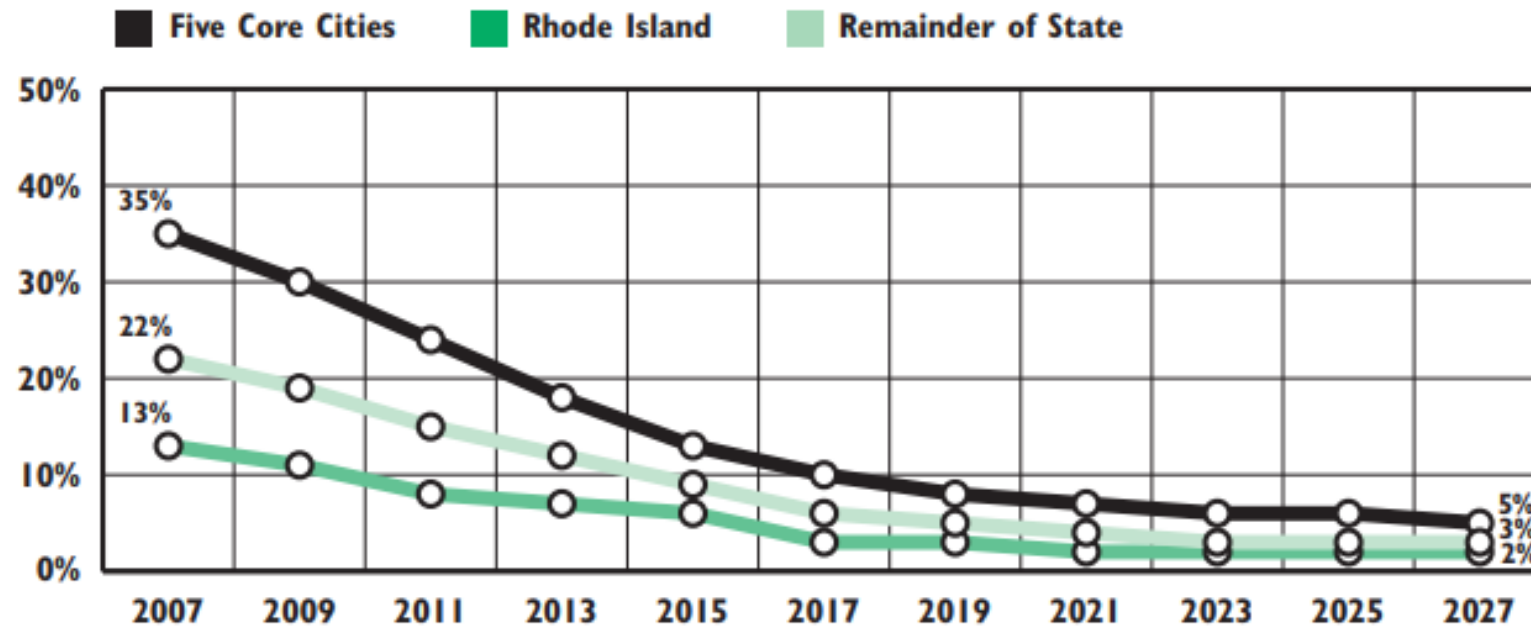


- In Providence, 1 in 5 (20.8%) of women who gave birth between 2020 and 2024 did not begin care until the second or third trimester.
- Providence had the second highest delayed prenatal care rate in the state.
- In Rhode Island, prenatal care and 12 months of postpartum care are available to pregnant individuals regardless of immigration status.

Children Affected by Lead Exposure

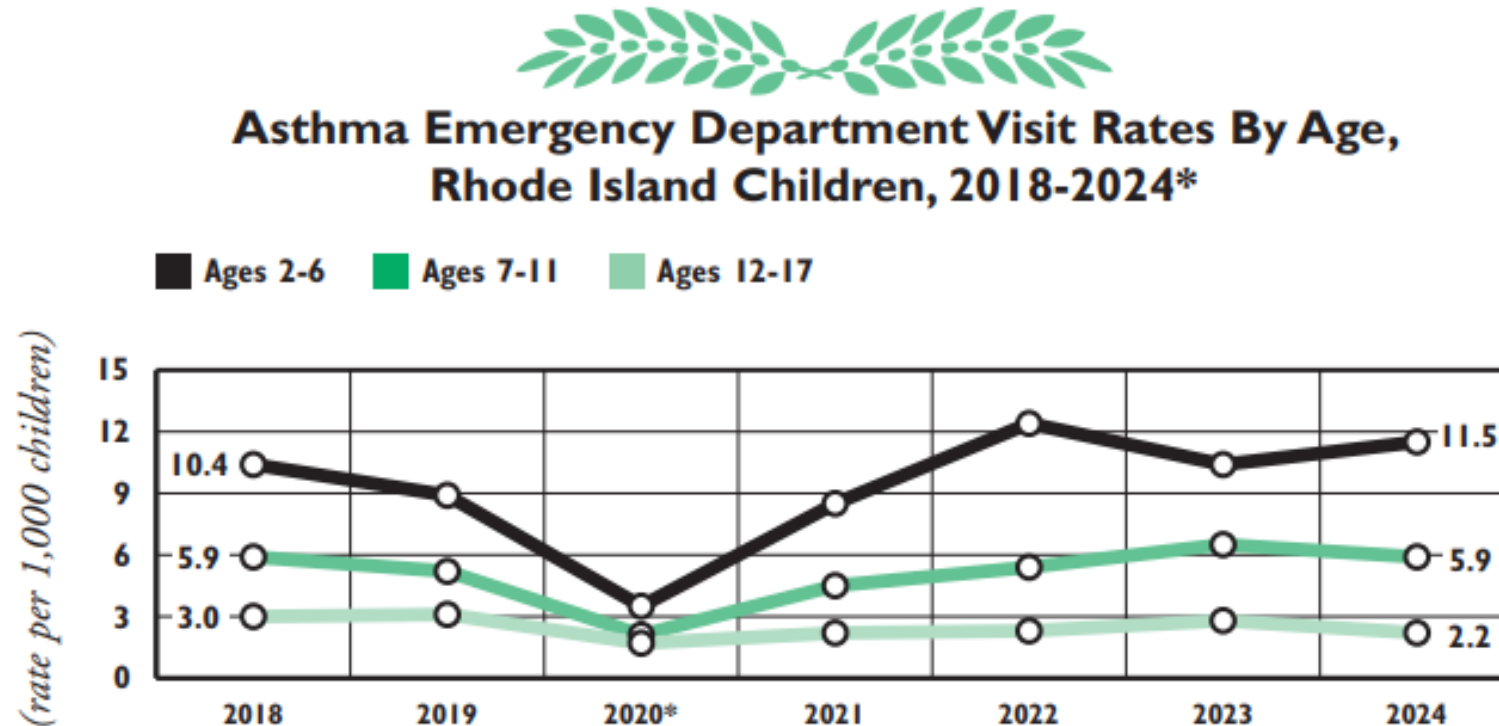


Children Entering Kindergarten with History of Elevated* Blood Lead Level, Rhode Island, Five Core Cities, and Remainder of State, 2007-2027



- 2,533 **Providence** children due to enter kindergarten in the fall of 2027 had been tested
- 244 (9.6%) were confirmed positive for ≥ 3.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$, the second highest rate in the state.

Children with Asthma



*Asthma-related emergency department visits decreased substantially in 2020 and must be interpreted with caution due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **Providence** has the highest rate of asthma-related emergency department visits in the state at 9.1 per 1,000 children, compared to 5.1 for the state as a whole.
- Most common chronic condition among children.
- One of the leading causes of school absence.

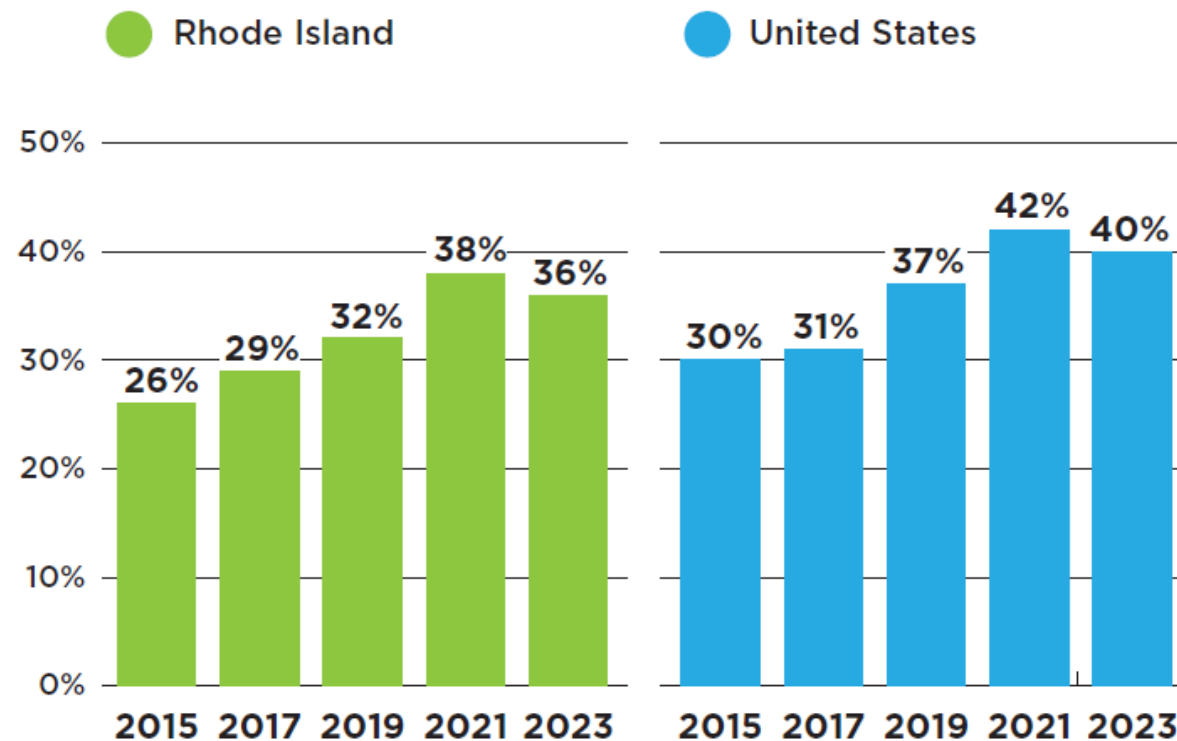


Safety

Mental Health Crisis Both Nationally and in Rhode Island

2025 data for the U.S. was just released last week, and Rhode Island data is still not available.

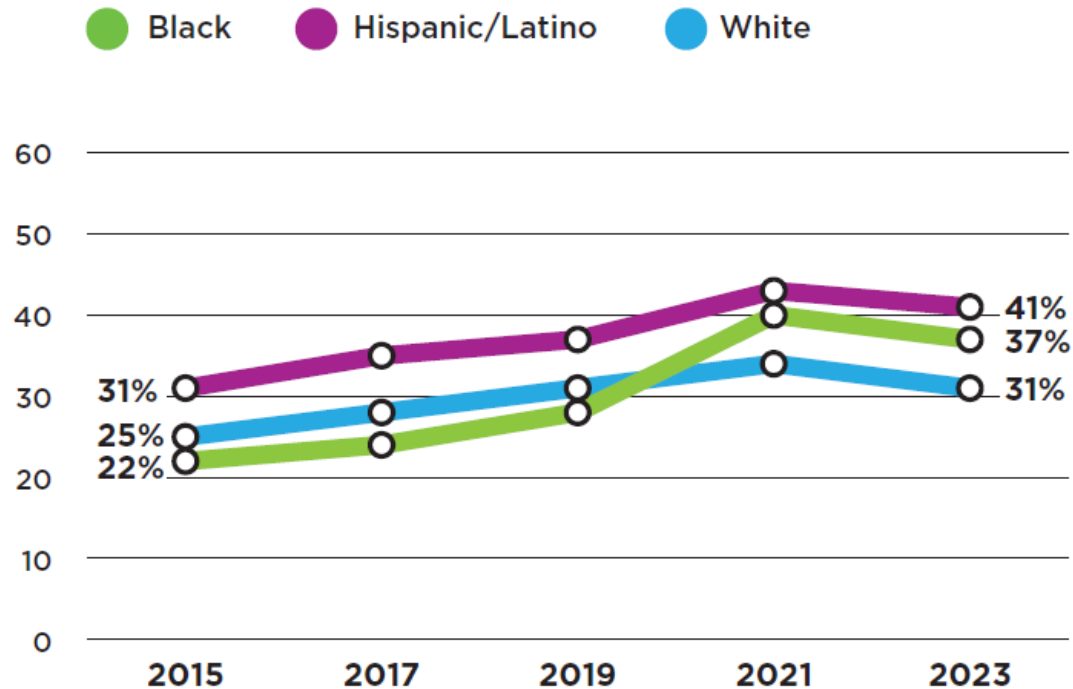
FEELINGS OF SADNESS OR HOPELESSNESS AMONG HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, RHODE ISLAND AND UNITED STATES, 2015-2023



Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2015-2023.

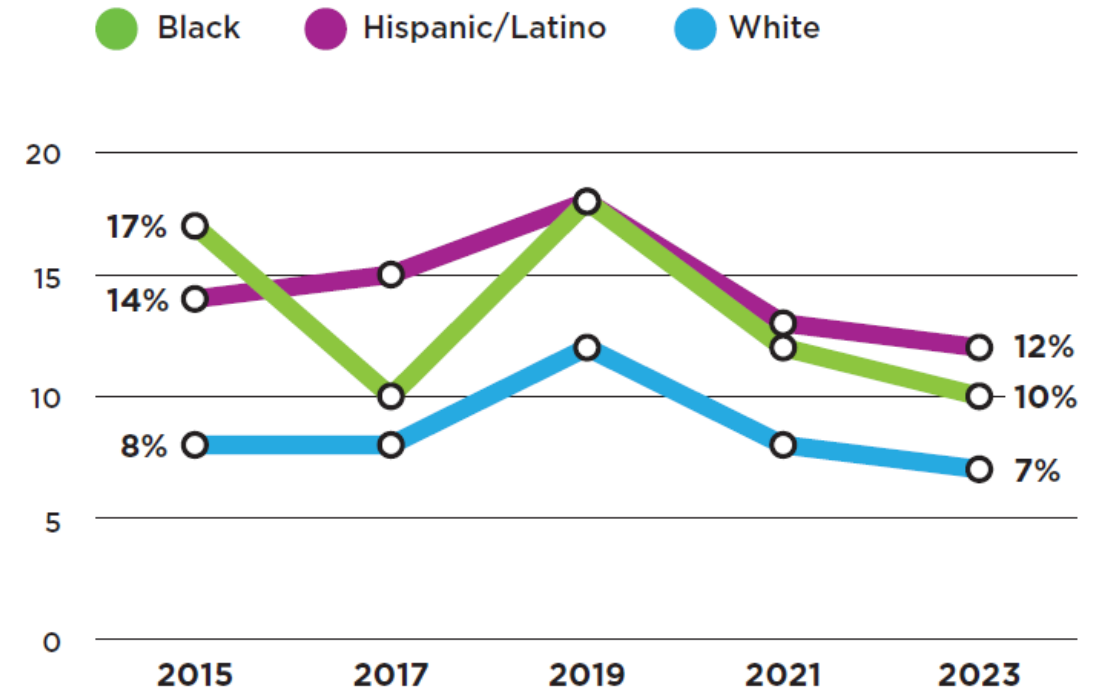
Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Youth Mental Health

FEELINGS OF SADNESS OR HOPELESSNESS AMONG HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, RHODE ISLAND, BY RACE AND ETHNICITY, 2015-2023



Source: Rhode Island Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2015-2023.

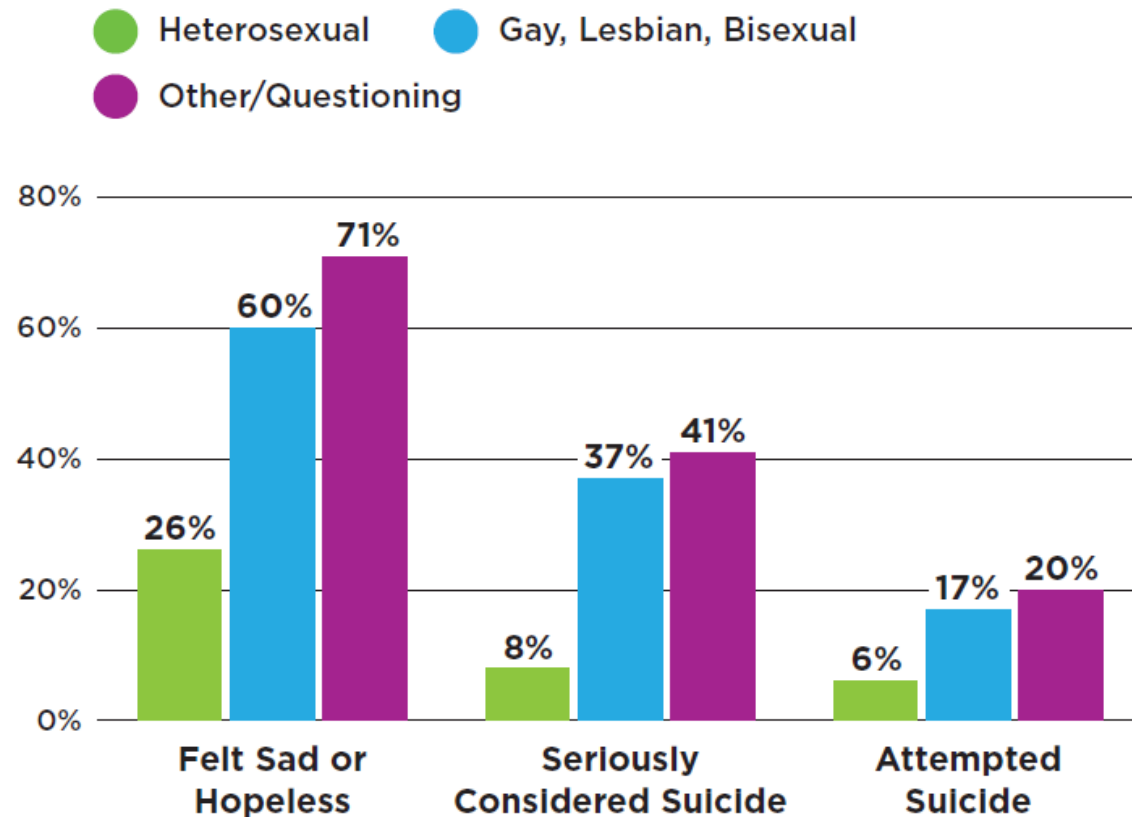
SUICIDE ATTEMPTS AMONG HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, RHODE ISLAND, BY RACE AND ETHNICITY, 2015-2023



Source: Rhode Island Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2015-2023.

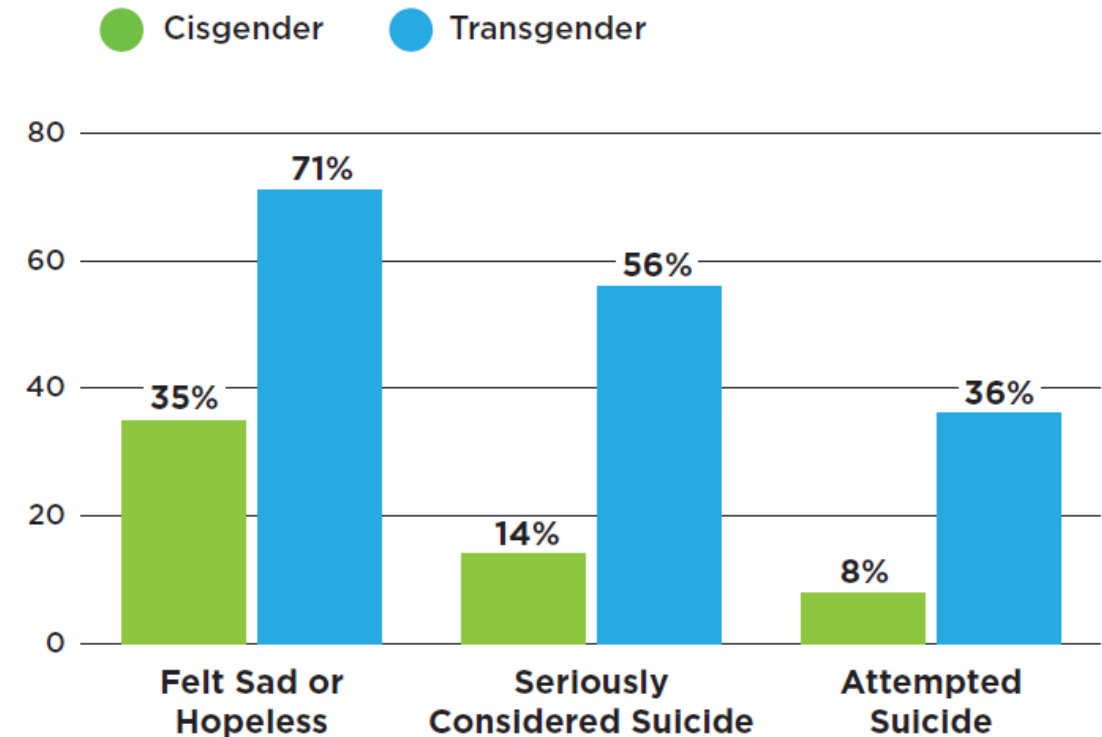
The Mental Health of LGBTQ+ Youth In Rhode Island

MENTAL HEALTH OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, RHODE ISLAND, BY SEXUAL ORIENTATION, 2023



Source: Rhode Island Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2023.

MENTAL HEALTH OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, RHODE ISLAND, BY GENDER IDENTITY, 2021 AND 2023



Source: Rhode Island Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2021 and 2023.

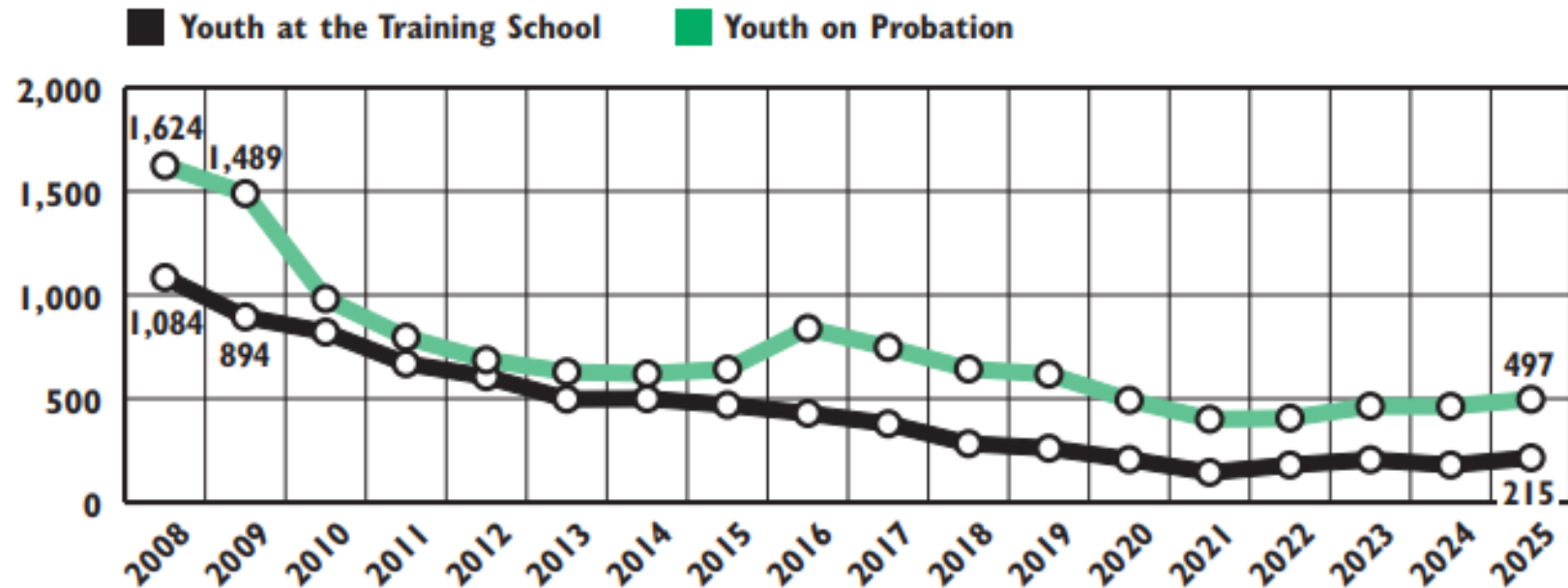
A Snapshot of *SurveyWorks* Data in Providence

Questions Related to Mental Health	Percentage of Middle and High School Students Responding Favorably
During the past 12 months, did you ever feel so sad or hopeless almost every day for 2 weeks or more in a row that you stopped doing some usual activities?	65% (↑2)
How much has stress interfered with your ability to participate in school in the last 30 days?	39% (↑3)
How likely is it that someone from your school will bully you online ?	59% (↑1)
If a student is bullied in school , how difficult is it for him/her to get help from an adult?	54% (↑1)
How often do you worry about violence at your school ?	52% (↑2)

Source: *SurveyWorks*, Spring '26 Secondary Student Survey - Grades 6-12 - Student Survey.



Youth in the Justice System, Calendar Years 2008-2025



Source: Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, RICHIST, 2008-2025. Some youth may have spent time at the Training School and on probation during any calendar year.

- In 2025, 69 Providence youth were held at the Rhode Island Training School and 142 were on probation.

Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Rhode Island

	% OF TOTAL CHILD POPULATION, 2020	% OF YOUTH AT THE RITS, 2025	% OF YOUTH ON PROBATION, 2025
American Indian and Alaska Native	<1%	1%	1%
Asian	3%	<1%	<1%
Black	6%	26%	25%
Hispanic/Latino	27%	42%	37%
Multiracial	8%	9%	10%
Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander	<1%	0%	0%
White	53%	21%	26%
Unknown	NA	<1%	0%
TOTAL	209,785	215	497

Children with Incarcerated Parents



Parents at the Rhode Island Adult Correctional Institutions (ACI), September 30, 2025

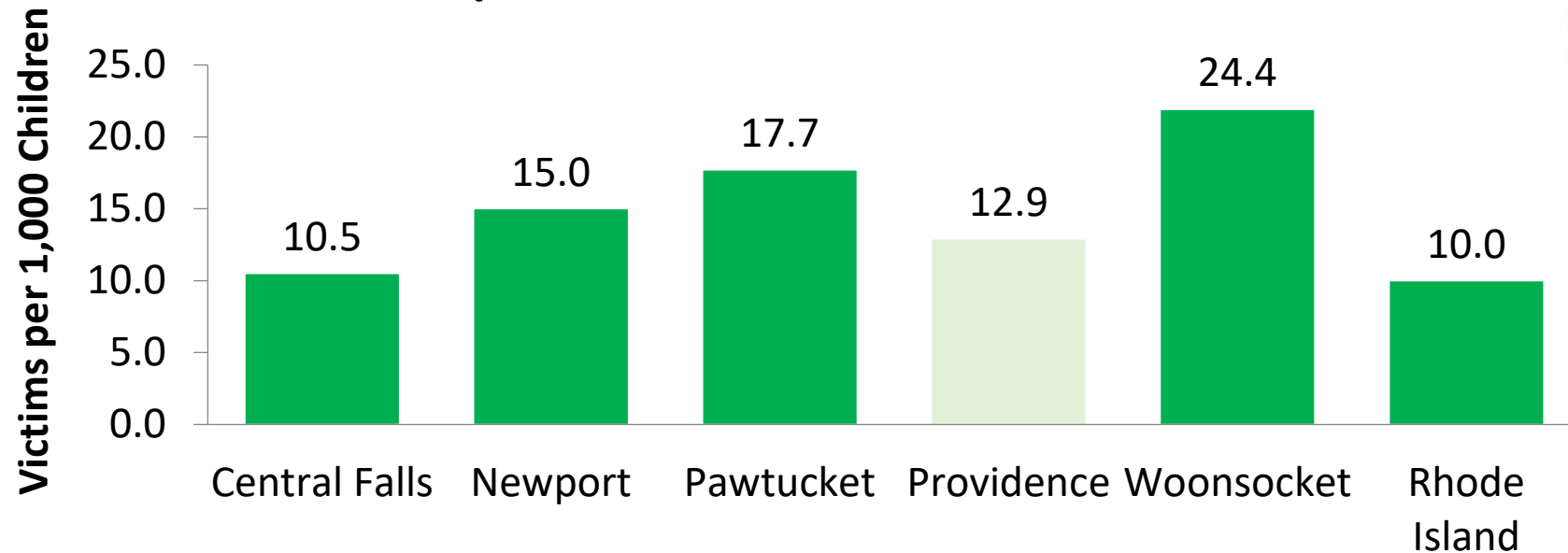
	INMATES SURVEYED*	# REPORTING CHILDREN	% REPORTING CHILDREN	# OF CHILDREN REPORTED
Awaiting Trial	847	628	74%	1,644
Serving a Sentence	1,595	1,003	63%	2,465
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>2,442</i>	<i>1,631</i>	<i>67%</i>	<i>4,109</i>

Source: Rhode Island Department of Corrections, September 30, 2025. **Does not include inmates who were missing responses to the question on number of children, inmates on home confinement, inmates serving at Institute of Mental Health, or those from another state's jurisdiction.*

- On September 30, 2025:
 - 282 incarcerated parents with a known in-state residence identified **Providence** as their last place of residence.
 - These parents reported 711 children.
 - Providence has the 2nd highest rate of children with incarcerated parents (17.3 per 1,000 children) than the state as a whole (8.9 per 1,000 children).

Child Neglect and Abuse

**Victims of Child Neglect and Abuse
per 1,000 Children, 2025**



In 2025, 530 Providence children were reported victims of child neglect and abuse.

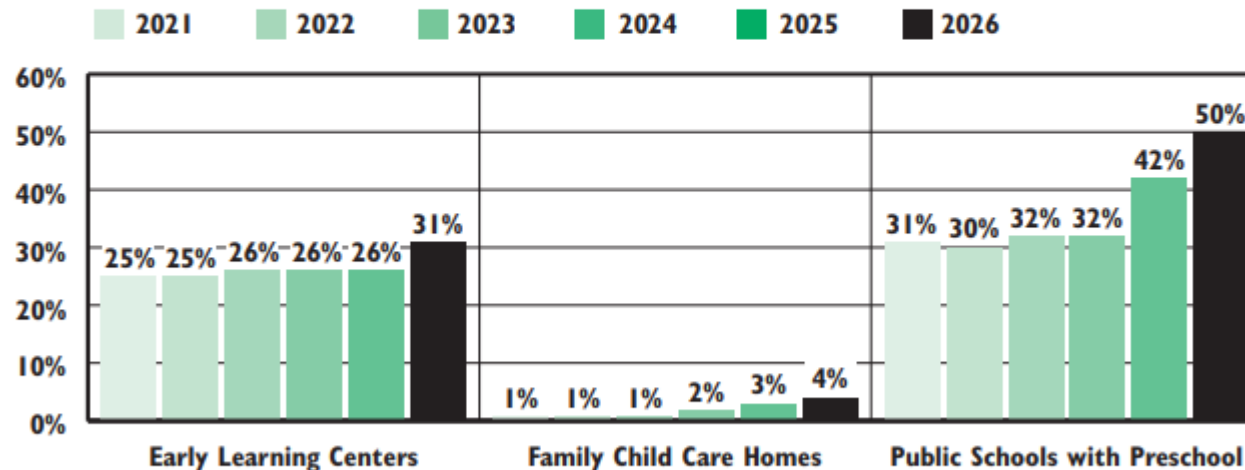
Statewide, 80% of all child neglect and abuse cases were due to neglect. The large majority of these cases were related to lack of supervision or exposure to domestic violence.



Education

Opportunities for High-Quality Early Childhood Education

Percentage of Licensed Early Learning Centers,
Family Child Care Programs, and Public Schools with a
High-Quality BrightStars Rating (4 or 5 Stars), Rhode Island, 2021-2026



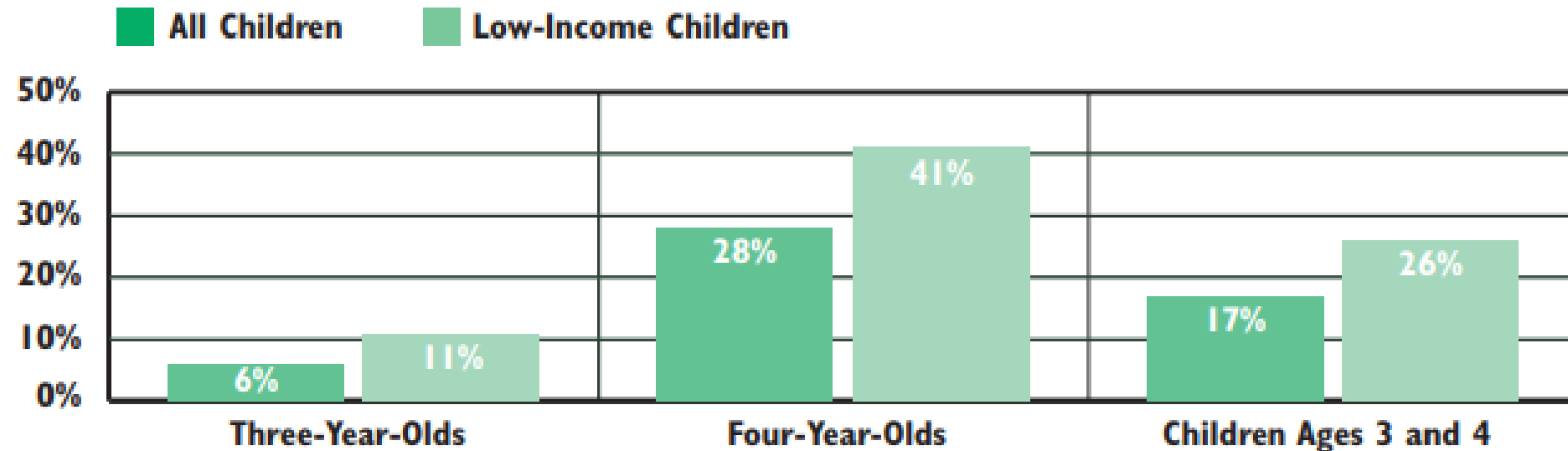
Source: Rhode Island Association for the Education of Young Children, Rhode Island Department of Human Services, Rhode Island Department of Education, January 2021 – January 2026.

- As of January 2026, **40% of the child care centers**, **3% of the family child care homes**, and **25% the public schools with preschool classrooms in Providence** had a high-quality rating of 4 or 5.
- **Child care assistance program (CCAP) eligibility increased** to 285% FPL at entrance and families remain eligible until their income reaches 325% FPL.

Opportunities for High-Quality Early Childhood Education

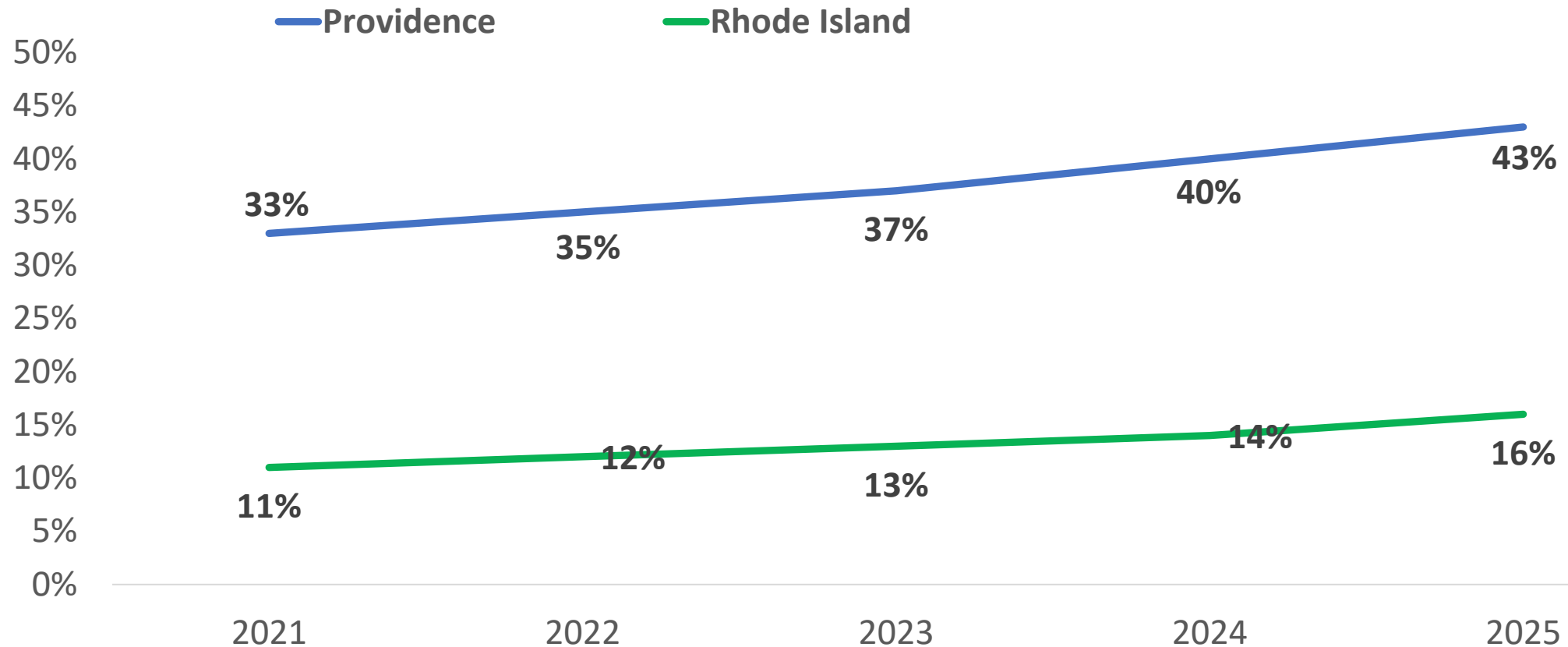


Percentage of Children Ages 3 and 4 Enrolled in Head Start and/or RI Pre-K, Rhode Island, 2025-2026



- **26% of all Providence children and 28% of low-income children in Providence who were ages 3 and 4 were enrolled in either Head Start or RI Pre-K.**

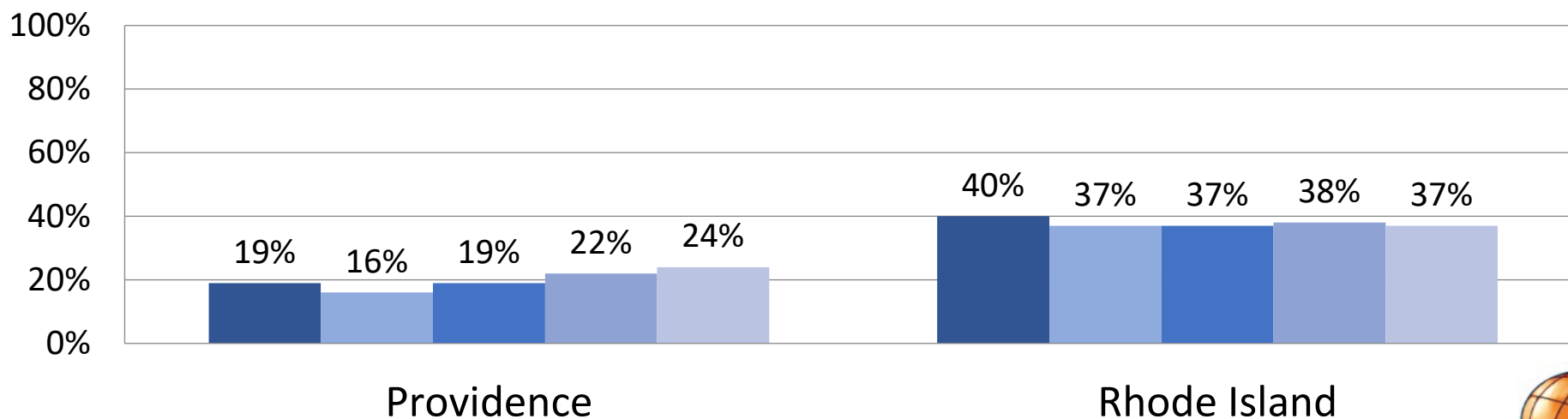
Growing Number of Multilingual Students



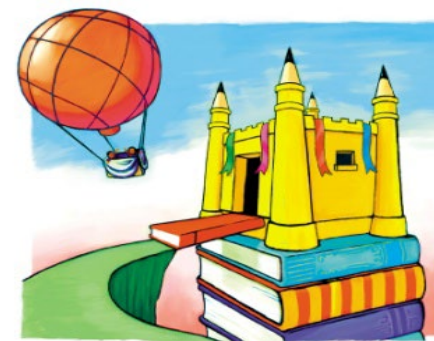
Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, 2020-2021 through 2024-2025 school years.

Third-Grade Reading Skills Rebounding Slowly After Pandemic

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

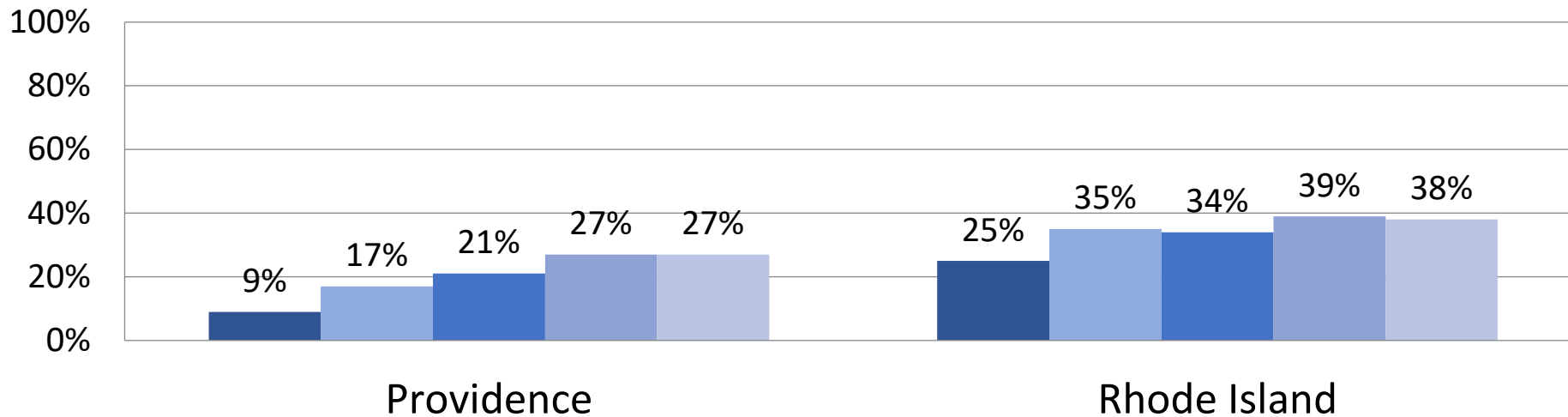


Source: Rhode Island Department of Education,
Rhode Island Comprehensive Assessment System (RICAS), 2021-2025.



Third-Grade Math Skills Rebounding Faster Since Pandemic

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



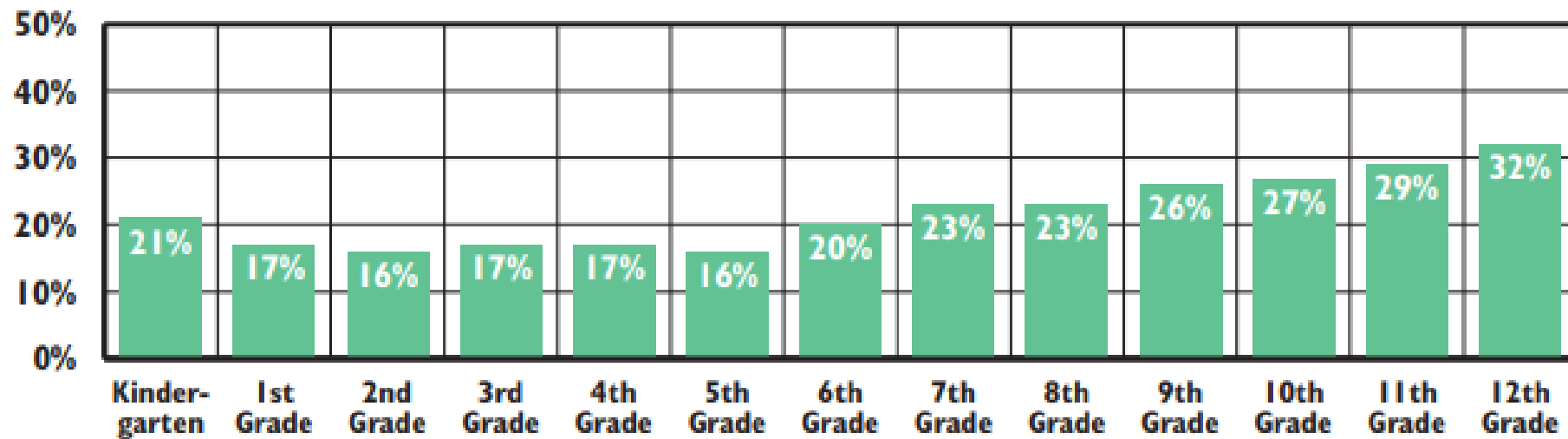
Source: Rhode Island Department of Education,
Rhode Island Comprehensive Assessment System (RICAS), 2021-2025.



Chronic Absence Rates Across Grades



Chronic Absence Rates in Rhode Island by Grade, 2024-2025 School Year

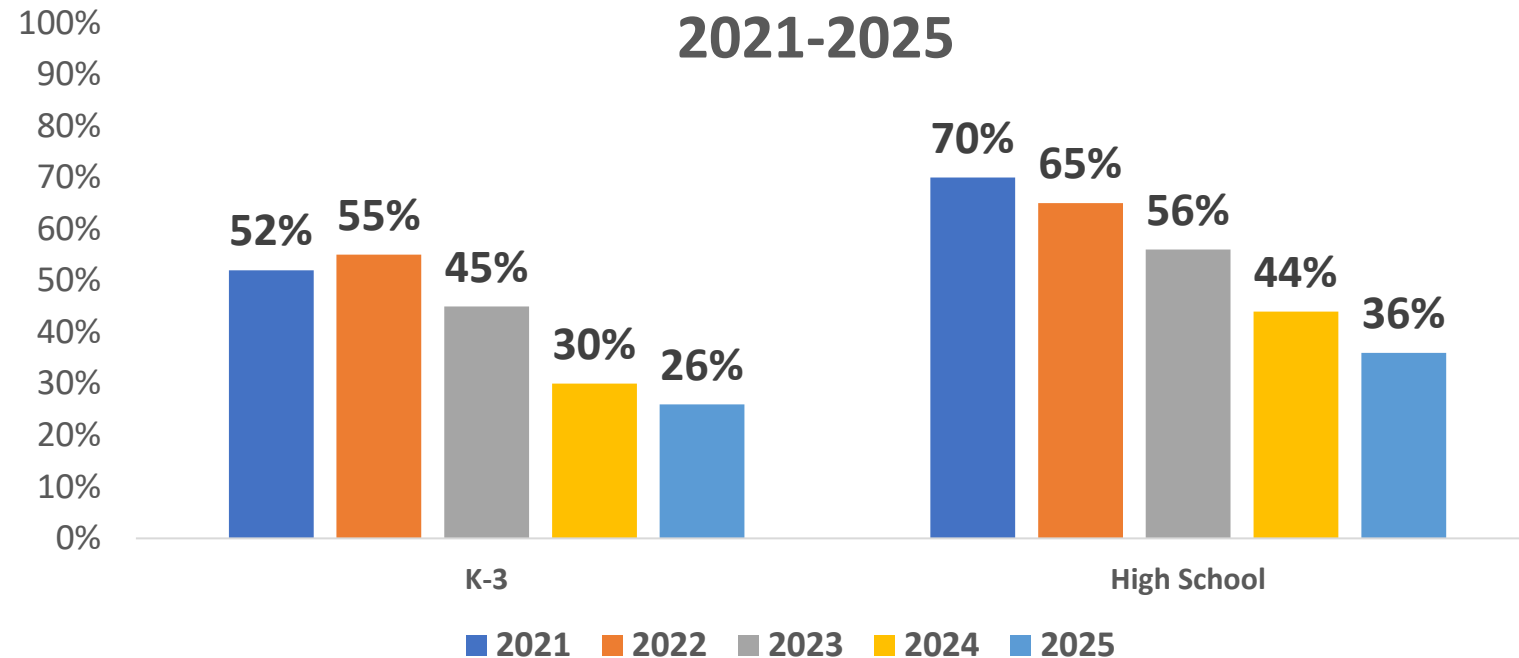


Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, 2024-2025 school year.

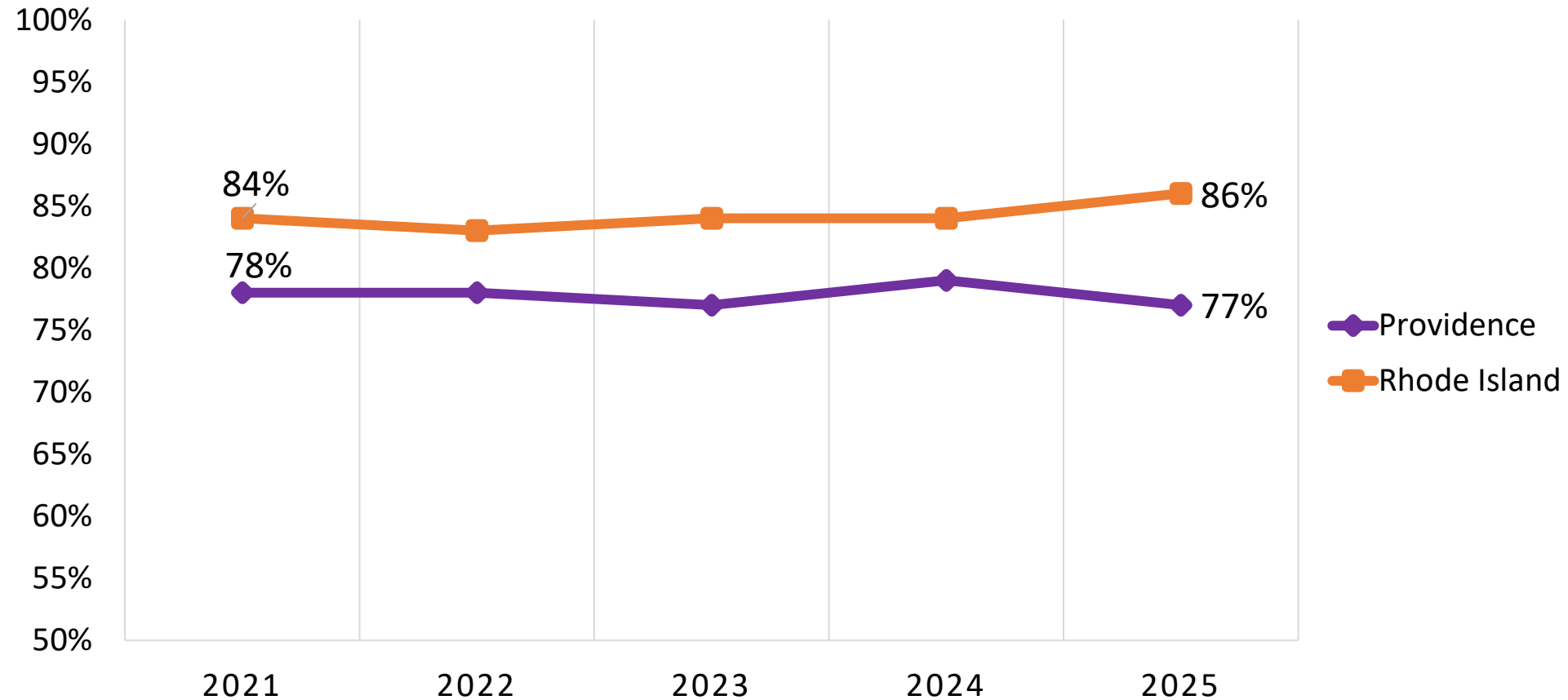
- Chronic absence is the percentage of students who have missed at least 10% of the school year (i.e., 18 days or more), including excused and unexcused absences.

Dramatic Declines in Chronic Absence and Now Approaching Statewide Rate

Providence Chronic Absence by Grade Level, 2021-2025



High School Graduation Rate, 2021-2025



Of the 1,875 Providence students who entered 9th grade in the 2021-2022 school year and were expected to graduate in 2025, **77% graduated in 4 years**, 11% dropped out, 1% obtained a GED, and 11% were still in school.

High School Graduation Rate, 2025

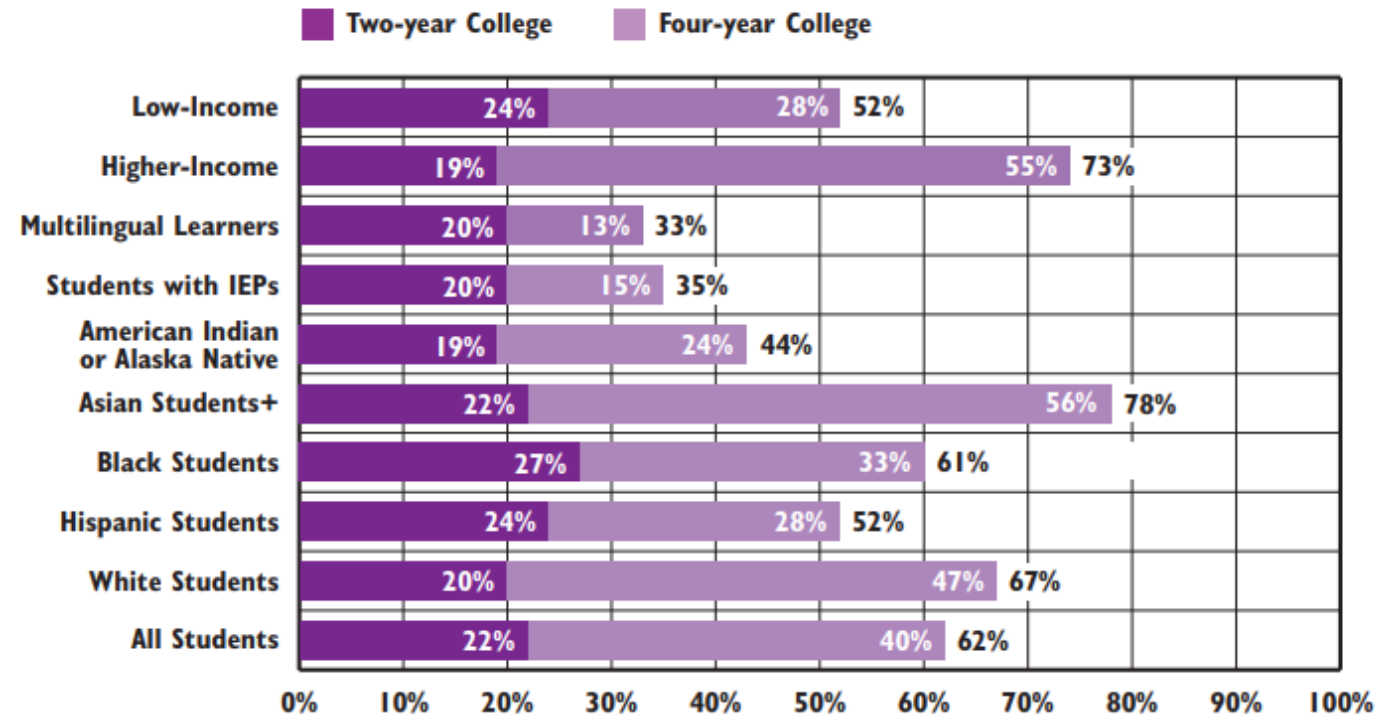
All Providence Students	77%
CTE Concentrators	94%
Non-CTE Concentrators	74%
Female	82%
Male	74%
Multilingual Learners (LEP)	69%
Not LEP	84%
Students with IEPs	64%
Students without IEPs	79%
Asian Students	86%
Black Students	82%
Hispanic Students	76%
White Students	80%



Only 51% of children experiencing homelessness graduated in four years.

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 and 47% of Providence students who graduated from high school in the Class of 2025 immediately enrolled in college.

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