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Rhode Island Excels in Children's Health Insurance Coverage, Ranked Third Best in the Nation

97.8% of Rhode Island children had health insurance coverage in 2016

Providence, RI (September 12, 2017) — Rhode Island KIDS COUNT released new data from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2016 American Community Survey (ACS) today. The ACS provides national and state-level data on health insurance coverage. The latest data shows that 97.8% of Rhode Island's children had health insurance coverage, and that Rhode Island is ranked third best in the nation.

Health Insurance Data

Children who have health insurance coverage are healthier and have fewer preventable hospitalizations. They 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. Uninsured children are less likely to have a medical home and have fewer visits to doctors and dentists.

Today's ACS health insurance data are for 2016, the third year for which the federal *Affordable Care Act (ACA)* was fully implemented. Data includes private coverage and public coverage, including Medicaid/CHIP (known as RItte Care in Rhode Island).

According to the ACS, in 2016:

- 97.8% of Rhode Island children had health insurance coverage, and 2.2% (an estimated 5,000) of Rhode Island children lacked health insurance coverage.
- 95.3% of all U.S. children had health insurance coverage, and 4.7% of all U.S. children lacked health insurance coverage.
- Rhode Island ranks 3rd best in the nation and 3rd in New England for children's health insurance coverage.
- Of the children in Rhode Island in 2016, 67.6% were enrolled in private coverage and 36.2% were covered by Medicaid/RItte Care.
 - *These values/figures exceed 100%, because some children may have more than one type of insurance coverage.*

| Percentage of All Children Under Age 19 Without Health Insurance Coverage: New England States and United States, 2016 | |
|--|--------------|
| 2016 | |
| United States | 4.7% |
| Massachusetts | 1.0 % |
| Vermont | 1.5 % |
| Rhode Island | 2.2 % |
| New Hampshire | 2.7 % |
| Connecticut | 2.8 % |
| Maine | 4.8 % |
| <i>Compiled by Rhode Island KIDS COUNT, September 2017. U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2016. Table HI05</i> | |

“It’s fantastic news for Rhode Island that we are now third best in the nation for children’s health insurance coverage. This demonstrates Rhode Island’s long-term commitment to children’s health, and builds on the success of RItE Care’s 2015 ranking of best quality children’s health insurance program in the country,” said Elizabeth Burke Bryant, Executive Director of Rhode Island KIDS COUNT. “We know that access to high-quality health insurance results in better health outcomes for children. And positive health outcomes yield great results far beyond the health arena — the classroom, the community, the workforce, and the economy; to name a few.”

“As we see in the remarkable progress reflected in today’s ACS rankings, the *Affordable Care Act* (ACA) has been a very important part of Rhode Island’s success in connecting children and families to health insurance. We’re also celebrating the fact that nationally, more children (95.3%) have health insurance coverage than ever before. We need to ensure continued progress in Rhode Island and the nation through a strong reauthorization by Congress of the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and continued support for Medicaid.”

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Rhode Island KIDS COUNT is a statewide children’s policy organization that works to improve the health, economic well-being, safety, education and development of Rhode Island children.

**Percentage of All Children Under Age 19
Without Health Insurance Coverage:
2016**

| | 2016 | Rank |
|----------------------|------------|----------|
| United States | 4.7 | NA |
| Alabama | 2.7 | 9 |
| Alaska | 10.3 | 50 |
| Arizona | 7.6 | 45 |
| Arkansas | 4.0 | 25 |
| California | 3.1 | 13 |
| Colorado | 4.3 | 26 |
| Connecticut | 2.8 | 12 |
| Delaware | 3.1 | 13 |
| Florida | 6.6 | 42 |
| Georgia | 6.7 | 43 |
| Hawaii | 2.5 | 5 |
| Idaho | 4.9 | 35 |
| Illinois | 2.6 | 7 |
| Indiana | 5.9 | 40 |
| Iowa | 2.6 | 7 |
| Kansas | 4.5 | 29 |
| Kentucky | 3.3 | 16 |
| Louisiana | 3.3 | 16 |
| Maine | 4.8 | 32 |
| Maryland | 3.4 | 18 |
| Massachusetts | 1.0 | 1 |
| Michigan | 3.1 | 13 |
| Minnesota | 3.4 | 18 |
| Mississippi | 4.8 | 32 |
| Missouri | 4.8 | 32 |
| Montana | 4.9 | 35 |
| Nebraska | 5.1 | 38 |
| Nevada | 7.0 | 44 |
| New Hampshire | 2.7 | 9 |
| New Jersey | 3.7 | 21 |
| New Mexico | 5.3 | 39 |
| New York | 2.5 | 5 |
| North Carolina | 4.7 | 30 |
| North Dakota | 8.0 | 47 |
| Ohio | 3.8 | 24 |
| Oklahoma | 7.7 | 46 |
| Oregon | 3.4 | 18 |
| Pennsylvania | 4.4 | 28 |
| Rhode Island | 2.2 | 3 |
| South Carolina | 4.3 | 26 |
| South Dakota | 4.7 | 30 |
| Tennessee | 3.7 | 21 |
| Texas | 9.8 | 49 |
| Utah | 6.0 | 41 |
| Vermont | 1.5 | 2 |
| Virginia | 5.0 | 37 |
| Washington | 2.7 | 9 |
| West Virginia | 2.3 | 4 |
| Wisconsin | 3.7 | 21 |
| Wyoming | 8.8 | 48 |

Compiled by Rhode Island KIDS COUNT, September 2017.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2016.
Table HI05.