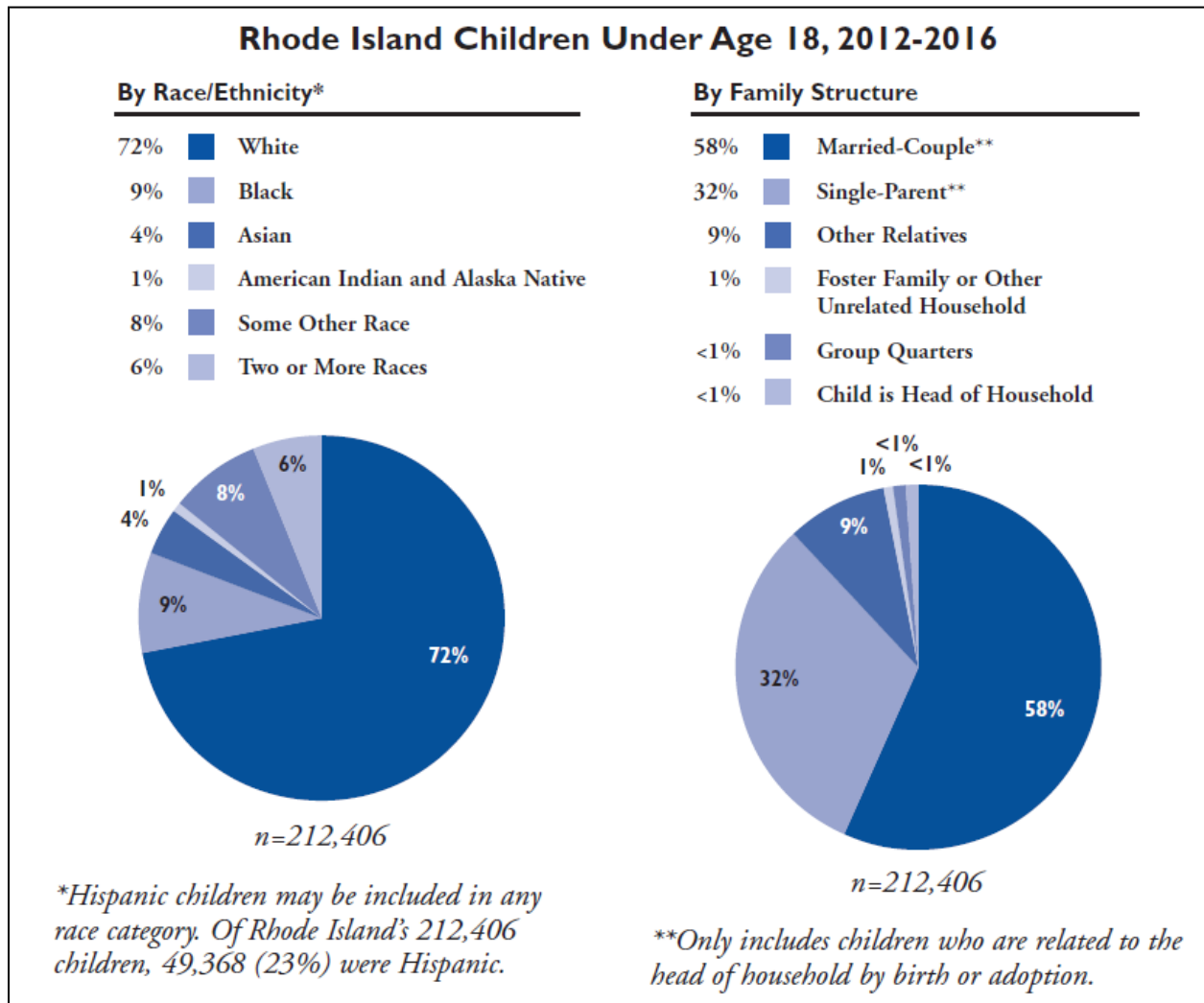


EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE 2018 RHODE ISLAND KIDS COUNT FACTBOOK

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION AND TRENDS

- In 2016, there were 208,640 children under age 18 in Rhode Island (20% of the state’s total population).
- Between 2000 and 2016, Rhode Island’s child population decreased by 16%.
- Ninety-five percent of children in Rhode Island were born in the U.S.
- Twenty-six 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).

A snapshot of children in Rhode Island, 2012-2016:



ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

Percentage of children in poverty in Rhode Island continues to decline.

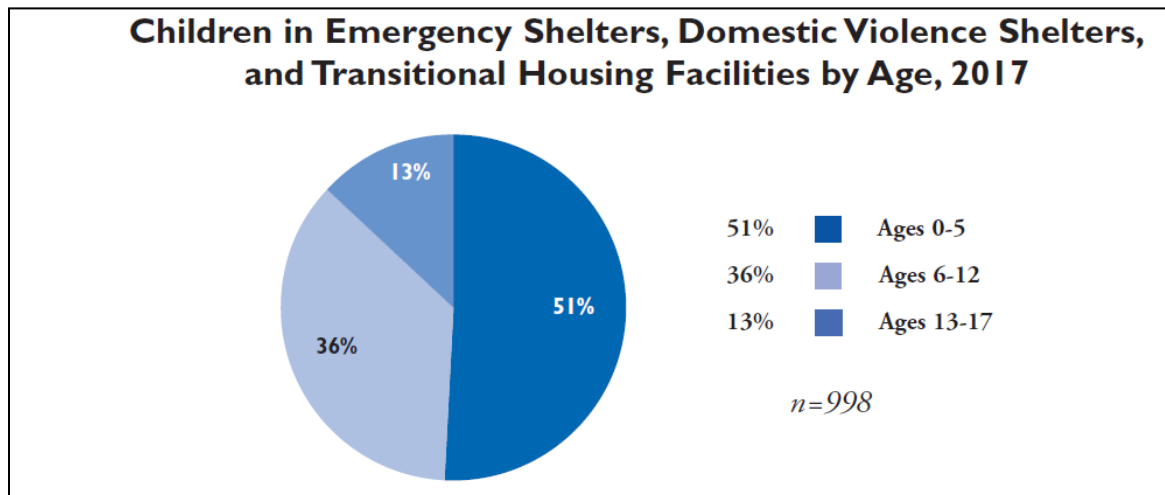
- In 2017, the federal poverty level was \$19,749 for a family of three with two children and \$24,858 for a family of four with two children.
- Between 2012 and 2016 (the 5-year average), 19% - or 40,699 - of Rhode Island children lived in households with incomes below the federal poverty threshold. In 2016 (the single-year estimate), 17% (35,106) of Rhode Island children lived in poverty.
- Between 2012 and 2016:
 - *Disparities in poverty rates:* 59% of Native American, 40% of Hispanic, and 31% of Black children in Rhode Island lived in poverty, compared to 8% of Asian children and 15% of White children.
 - Between 2012 and 2016, 48% of all of Rhode Island’s poor children were Hispanic.
 - *Young children in poverty:* 22.5% (14,639) of Rhode Island children under age six lived in poverty. Children under age six are at higher risk of living in poverty than any other age group.

| Children in Poverty | | | | |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------------|
| | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 |
| RI | 21.5% | 19.8% | 19.4% | 17.0% |
| US | 22.2% | 21.7% | 20.7% | 19.5% |
| National Rank* | | | | <i>22nd</i> |
| New England Rank** | | | | <i>5th</i> |

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

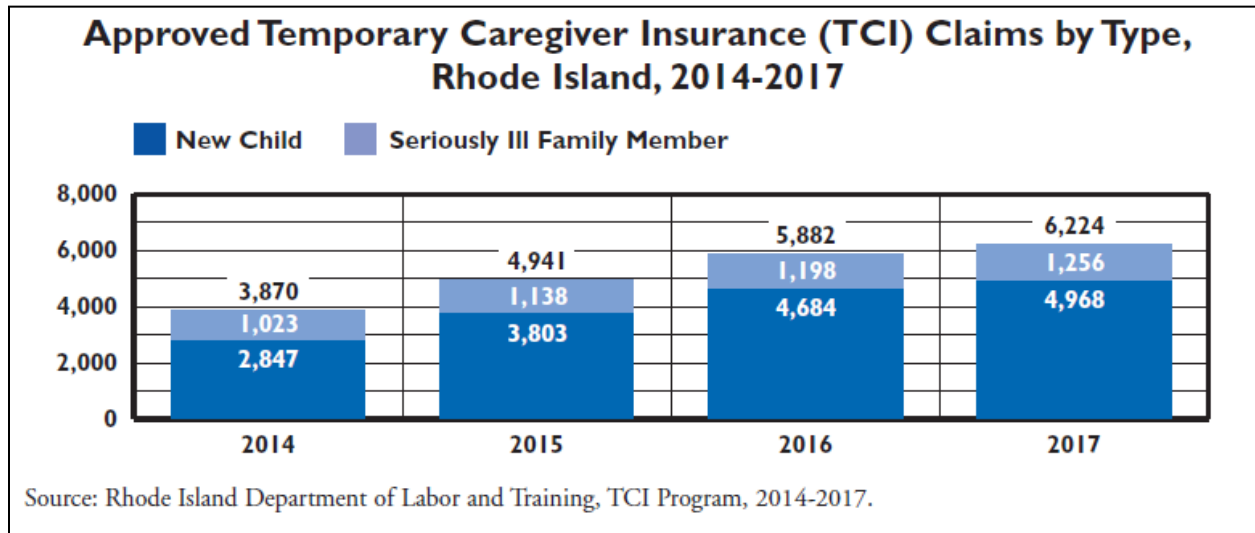
Housing and homelessness of children and families: cost of rent increased slightly, more children in shelters.

- In 2017, the average cost of rent in Rhode Island rose by almost \$100 to \$1,385, after remaining fairly stable between 2008 and 2016.



- In 2017, 539 families with 998 children stayed at emergency homeless shelters, domestic violence shelters, or transitional housing facilities in Rhode Island; up from 515 families with 966 children in 2016. Children made up 22% of the people who used emergency homeless shelters, domestic violence shelters, and transitional housing in 2017. Half (51%) of these children were under age six.

More Rhode Island families are using Rhode Island's TCI/Paid Family Leave program.



- Paid Family Leave reports on 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). 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.
- There were 6,224 approved claims for TCI during 2017 (up from 5,882 in 2016 and 4,941 in 2015). Of the approved claims to bond with a new child, 39% were filed by men and 61% were filed by women.

Nutrition programs are reaching fewer Rhode Island children and families.

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.

- **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP):** Child food insecurity has been shown to decrease by almost one-third after families receive SNAP for six months. Of the 163,724 Rhode Islanders enrolled in SNAP in October 2017, 35% (56,580) were children. Of the children enrolled in SNAP, 34% were under the age of six.
 - Between 2016 and 2017, the number of adults receiving SNAP benefits decreased by 3,901, and the number of children receiving SNAP decreased by 3,925.
- **Women, Infants and Children (WIC):** WIC serves pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, as well as infants and children under five years of age living in households with incomes at or below 185% of the federal poverty level.
 - Infants and children ages one through four comprised more than three-quarters (77%) of the population being served by WIC in September 2017 in Rhode Island. At that time, 22,141 Rhode Island women, infants, and children participated in WIC.
 - This is a decrease from September 2016, when 23,244 Rhode Island women, infants, and children participated in WIC.

All information is embargoed until 12:01 a.m. on Monday, April 9, 2018

- In September 2017, 70% of WIC participants in Rhode Island were White, 16% were Black or African-American, 3% were Asian, and 11% identified as other races or more than one race. Fifty-one percent of WIC participants identified as Hispanic or Latino. Hispanics are included in the racial groups above.
- The WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program improves participants' intake of fresh fruits and vegetables by enabling participants to purchase produce at authorized local farmers' markets using WIC benefits. In Rhode Island in 2017, 31 farmers' markets provided fresh produce to 12,371 WIC participants.

HEALTH

Health coverage among Rhode Island children is 3rd best in nation, with 98% covered.

- In 2016, an estimated 1.9% of Rhode Island children were uninsured. Rhode Island ranks third best in the U.S., with 98.1% of children having health insurance.
 - Between 2014 and 2016, 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 31%.

| Children Without Health Insurance | | |
|-----------------------------------|------|-----------------|
| | 2010 | 2016 |
| RI | 5.6% | 1.9% |
| US | 8.6% | 4.5% |
| National Rank* | | 3 rd |
| New England Rank** | | 3 rd |

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

Rhode Island has high rates of childhood and adolescent immunizations.

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.

- Despite an increase in immunization exemptions, Rhode Island rates for several vaccines are the best in the country. According to the *2016 National Immunization Survey-Teen*, Rhode Island adolescents ranked first(best) in the U.S. for the 1+MenACWY vaccine; first for the 1+HPV and 3+HPV vaccines for males and females; and second for the 1+Tdap vaccine.
- Of the immunizations needed for school entry in Rhode Island, entering kindergarteners had coverage rates between 95% and 98%, while entering seventh grade students had rates between 74% and 99%.

While access to preventive dental care is improving, costly hospital care is still an issue.

- Since RIte Smiles (Rhode Island's managed care oral health program) started in 2006, reimbursement rates have been raised for participating dental providers. The number of dentists accepting qualifying children increased from 27 before RIte Smiles began to 90 at the launch of RIte Smiles. In June 2017, there were 385 dentists in 250 practice locations participating in RIte Smiles.
- Fifty percent (65,868) of the children who were enrolled in RIte Care, RIte Share, or Medicaid fee-for-service on June 30, 2017 received a dental service during 2017. The number of children receiving dental services has increased by 52% since 2006, when RIte Smiles launched.
- Between 2012 and 2016, an average of 593 children were treated for a primary dental-related condition in Rhode Island emergency departments annually. This is a decrease from between 2011 and 2015, when an average of 656 children under age 21 were treated for a primary dental-related condition in Rhode Island emergency departments annually.

- Each year between 2012 and 2016 in Rhode Island, an average of 73 children under age 19 were hospitalized with a diagnosis that included an oral health condition.

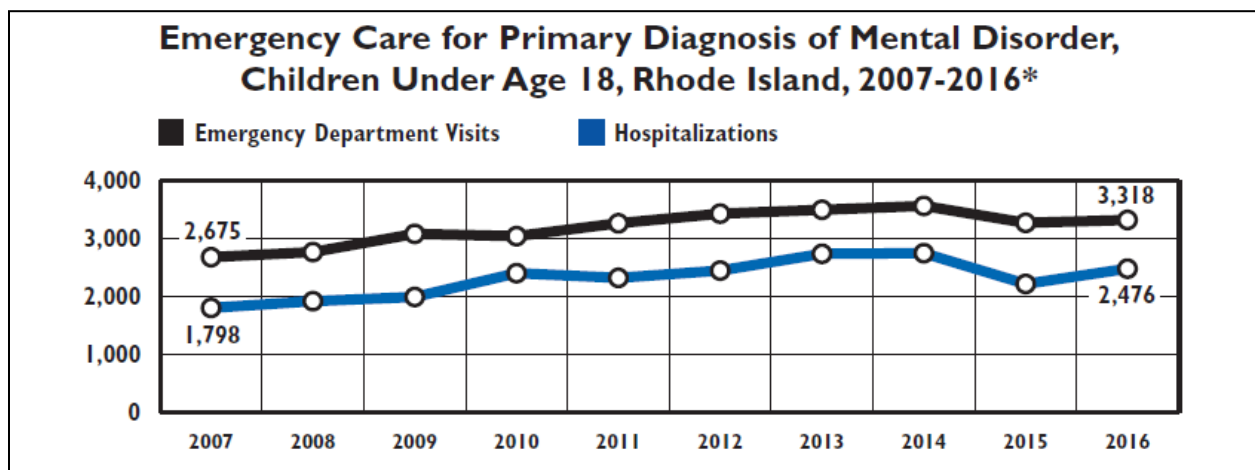
The number of babies with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome has doubled since 2006.

- Babies born with exposure to opioids face immediate and potential 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.
- In Rhode Island in 2016, 96 babies were diagnosed with NAS, a rate of 89.5 per 10,000 births; down from 114 babies (103.8 per 10,000 births) in 2015 but more than double the rate of 37.2 in 2006.
- Eighty-six percent of babies born with NAS between 2012 and 2016 in Rhode Island were born to White mothers, 86% were born to mothers who were covered by Medicaid, and 38% lived in the four core cities.

Need for increased access to appropriate mental health services for children and youth.

In the U.S., 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.

- In 2016, an estimated 55% of Rhode Island children ages three to 17 who needed mental health treatment or counseling had a problem obtaining needed care.
- In 2017, 462 Rhode Island children and youth awaited psychiatric inpatient admission for an average of four days on medical floors at Hasbro Children’s Hospital. This is up from 212 children and an average of three days in 2016.
- In 2017, an average of nine children per day were ready to leave the psychiatric hospital (up from the 2016 average of six kids per day), but were unable to leave due to a lack of appropriate step-down availability or there being no other safe placement (including at home).

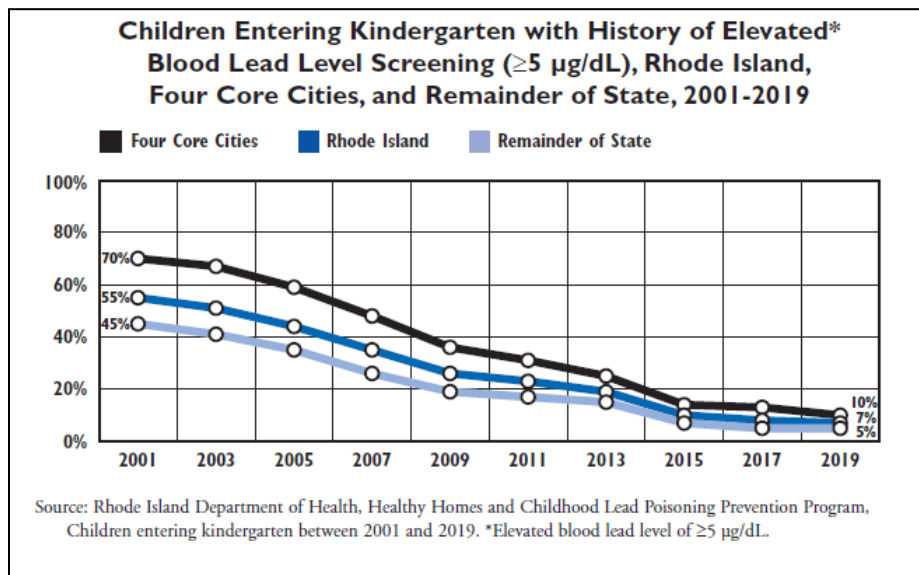


- In 2016, there were 3,318 emergency department visits and 2,476 hospitalizations of Rhode Island children with a primary diagnosis of mental disorder. Between 2007 and 2016, emergency department visits increased 24% and hospitalizations increased 38%.

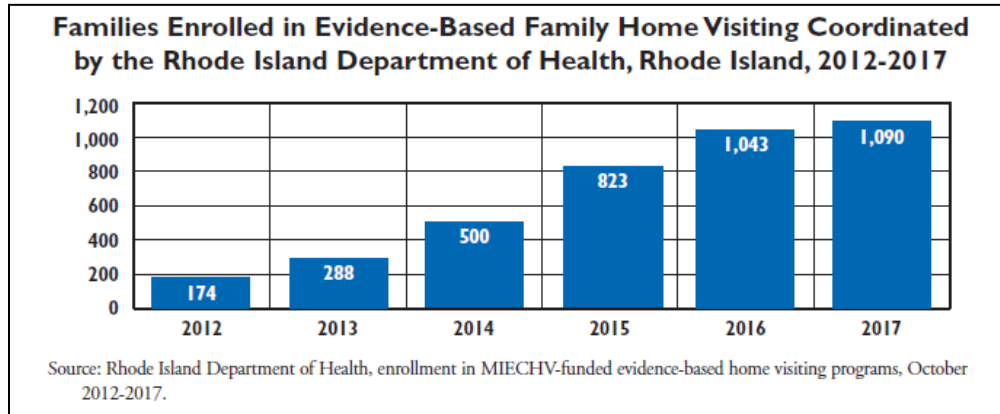
E-cigarette use is significantly higher than cigarette use among Rhode Island youth.

- Cigarette use has reached record low levels among U.S. middle and high school students.
- In Rhode Island in 2017, 6% of high school students reported *currently* smoking cigarettes and 19% reported *ever* smoking cigarettes.
- In Rhode Island in 2017, 20% of high school students reported *current* use of e-cigarettes and 40% reported *ever* using e-cigarettes.
- The Rhode Island General Assembly passed legislation prohibiting the use of e-cigarettes in schools, effective January 1, 2018.

Lead poisoning continues to decline in Rhode Island.



- The percentage of children entering kindergarten with a history of with elevated blood lead levels has steadily declined in all areas of Rhode Island over the past two decades. Compared to the remainder of the state, the core cities have twice the rate of children with elevated blood levels.



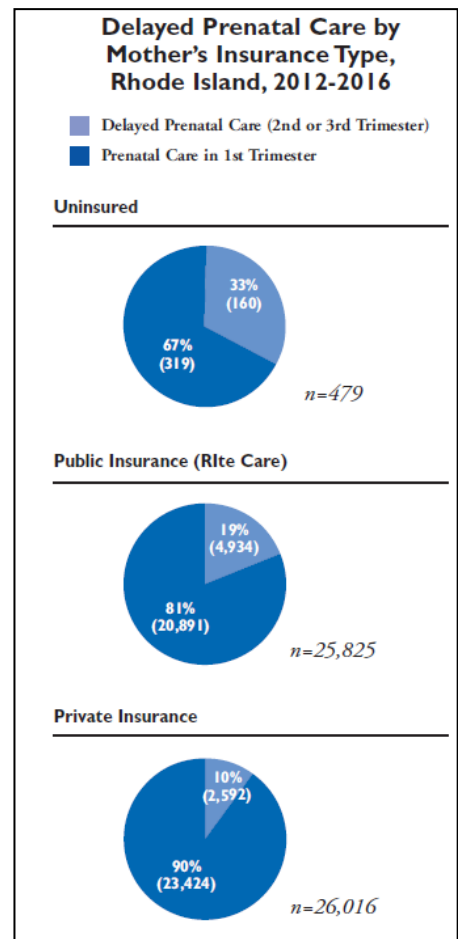
Increase in families participating in evidence-based home visiting programs.

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 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.

- As of October 2017, there were 1,090 families enrolled in evidence-based home visiting programs, up from 1,043 families in October 2016.

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. In Rhode Island between 2012 and 2016, pregnant women who were uninsured were most likely to receive delayed prenatal care (33%) compared to pregnant women with health coverage through Rite Care (19%), and pregnant women with private insurance coverage (10%).



Teen births reach historic low in U.S. and Rhode Island.

- In 2016, the birth rate for U.S. teens (20 births per 1,000 teen girls) and Rhode Island teens (13 births per 1,000 teen girls) were the lowest ever recorded.
- The single-year preterm birth rate in Rhode Island increased from 2015 to 2016 (8.5% to 9.3%).

SAFETY

Gun violence affects Rhode Island children, youth, and communities.

- In the U.S., firearms are the third leading cause of death among children ages one to 17.
- In Rhode Island between 2012 and 2016, there were 170 emergency department visits and 47 hospitalizations of children and youth for gun-related injuries.
- Between 2012 and 2016 in Rhode Island, 8% (8) of the 96 injury deaths of children and youth under age 20 were the result of firearms.

Increases in the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) caseload.

- The total DCYF caseload on December 31, 2017 was 7,133, including 2,318 children living in their homes under DCYF supervision and 2,151 children living in out of home placements,
 - This is an increase from the prior year, when the total DCYF caseload was 6,699, including 2,141 children living in their homes under DCYF supervision and 1,922 children living in out of home placements.

Increases in child maltreatment reports, and abuse and neglect.

- In 2017 in Rhode Island, there were 2,404 indicated investigations of child abuse and neglect involving 3,357 children, up from 2,074 indicated investigations involving 2,976 children in 2016.
 - In 2017, Rhode Island had 14.6 child victims of abuse and neglect per 1,000 children, up from a rate of 12.3 per 1,000 children in 2016.
 - The rate of child abuse and neglect was more than two times higher in the four core cities (23.5 victims per 1,000 children) than in the remainder of the state (10.2 victims per 1,000 children).
 - About half (52%) of the victims of child abuse and neglect in 2017 were young children under age six and one-third (34%) were ages three and younger.

| YEAR | TOTAL # UNDUPLICATED CHILD MALTREATMENT REPORTS | % AND # OF REPORTS WITH COMPLETED INVESTIGATIONS | # OF INDICATED INVESTIGATIONS |
|------|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| 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 |
| 2017 | 15,945 | 42% (6,628) | 2,404 |

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- Between 2016 and 2017 in Rhode Island, the numbers of unduplicated child maltreatment reports, completed investigations, and indicated investigations all increased. This followed two years of declines in the numbers of both completed and indicated investigations.
 - In 2017, 36% (2,404) of the 6,628 completed investigations of child maltreatment were indicated.
 - An indicated investigation is one in which there is a “preponderance of evidence that a child has been abused and/or neglected.”
- Of the 15,945 maltreatment reports in 2017, 48% (7,703) were classified as “information/referrals” (formerly “early warnings”).
 - Information/referrals (IR) 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 exist, and there is a specific incident or pattern of incidents suggesting that harm can be identified.
 - In 2017, DCYF reinstated a practice of doing a second review of all maltreatment calls initially classified as IR within 24 hours to either confirm IR status or to reclassify for investigation.

More children in the care of DCYF are in relative foster care homes, and fewer in congregate care placements (residential facilities or group homes).

- On December 31, 2017, 293 children were living in a residential facility or group home, a decline from 355 children on December 31, 2016 and 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 35% on December 31, 2016 to 40% on December 31, 2017.
 - On December 31, 2017, there were 888 children under age 19 in DCYF care who were in out-of-home placements with grandparents or other relatives. These children made up 42% of all children in out-of-home placements in Rhode Island.
 - This is an increase from 721 children placed with grandparents or other relatives on December 31, 2016.
- On December 31, 2017, there were 45 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 absent without leave (AWOL), 22 females and 23 males. These youth were AWOL from either foster care or juvenile justice placements.

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The number of youth in the custody of the Rhode Island Training School continues to decline.

- Between 2008 and 2017, 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 379.

| | % OF TOTAL CHILD POPULATION, 2010 | % OF YOUTH IN THE CARE AND CUSTODY OF RHODE ISLAND TRAINING SCHOOL, 2017 |
|--------------|--|---|
| White | 64% | 56% |
| Hispanic | 21% | 37% |
| Black | 6% | 30% |
| Asian | 3% | 1% |
| Multi-Racial | 5% | 8% |
| Other* | <1% | 1% |
| Unknown | NA | 5% |
| <i>TOTAL</i> | <i>223,956</i> | <i>383</i> |

- Youth of color are disproportionately more likely than White youth to be in the care and custody of the Training School. During 2017, Black youth made up 30% of youth at the Training School, while making up 6% of the child population.

EARLY CHILDHOOD AND K-16 EDUCATION

Child Care in Rhode Island: Trends in quality, affordability, and subsidies

Children begin learning at birth and brain development proceeds rapidly in early childhood. Learning disparities appear early and grow over time without access to enriching early learning experiences. Participation in high-quality early learning programs from birth through kindergarten entry helps to ensure children enter school with the skills needed to succeed.

- Low child care subsidy reimbursement rates restrict access to high-quality child care providers. Rhode Island is one of only nine states in the U.S. that do not have a tiered child care rate system with higher payments for higher quality child care programs in order to incentivize and support quality.
- Child care subsidies through the RI Child Care Assistance Program help low-income families access higher-quality child care programs that support children’s development and learning.
 - As of December 2017, 10% of children receiving subsidies were enrolled in programs with high-quality BrightStars ratings (four or five stars).
 - At that time, 64 (20%) licensed early learning centers, six (1%) licensed family child care homes, and 10 (20%) public schools had met the benchmarks for a high-quality rating of four or five stars. This is an increase from December 2016, when (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.

Forty-one percent of Rhode Island’s low-income children are benefiting from public preschool through Head Start and the State pre-K Program.

- As of the 2017-2018 school year, there were 2,267 children enrolled in either Head Start or State Pre-K during the year before kindergarten, approximately 23% of all children and 41% of low-income children. Of these children, 52% were enrolled in Head Start and 48% were enrolled in State Pre-K.

Slight decrease in public school enrollment.

- Over the past 10 years, Rhode Island public school enrollment has decreased 2% — from 145,342 on October 1, 2008, to 142,949 students on October 1, 2017.

Largest percentage of English learners in Rhode Island are in the early grades.

- In 2016-2017, 11% of all children in grades K-3 in Rhode Island (4,757) were English learners compared to 6% of students in grades 4-6, 7% in grades 7-9, and 6% in grades 10-12.
- In 2017, the Rhode Island General Assembly made permanent a categorical program to provide additional support for the costs associated with educating English learners.
- In 2017, 12% of third-grade EL students met or exceeded expectations on the *Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)* English language arts assessment, compared to 44% of non-EL students.

- In 2017, 1% of seventh-grade EL students met or exceeded expectations in the *PARCC* math assessment, compared to 29% of non-EL students.

Improvements in third-grade reading proficiency since 2015.

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*.

- In 2017, 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 to 37% of students in 2015.

| SUBGROUP | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | % CHANGE 2015-2017* |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------------|
| Male Students | 33% | 35% | 35% | +3% |
| Female Students | 43% | 45% | 45% | +3% |
| English Learners | 8% | 13% | 12% | +3% |
| Non-English Learners | 40% | 43% | 44% | +3% |
| Students with Disabilities | 11% | 10% | 16% | +5% |
| Students without Disabilities | 42% | 44% | 45% | +3% |
| Low-Income Students | 21% | 25% | 25% | +4% |
| Higher-Income Students | 53% | 56% | 57% | +4% |
| White Students | 48% | 49% | 50% | +3% |
| Asian Students | 48% | 49% | 54% | +6% |
| Black Students | 22% | 26% | 27% | +6% |
| Hispanic Students | 18% | 24% | 24% | +6% |
| Native American Students | 17% | 15% | 16% | -1% |
| ALL STUDENTS | 37% | 40% | 40% | +3% |

Source: Rhode Island Department of Education, *Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)*, 2015-2017. Low-income status is determined by eligibility for the free or reduced-price lunch program.

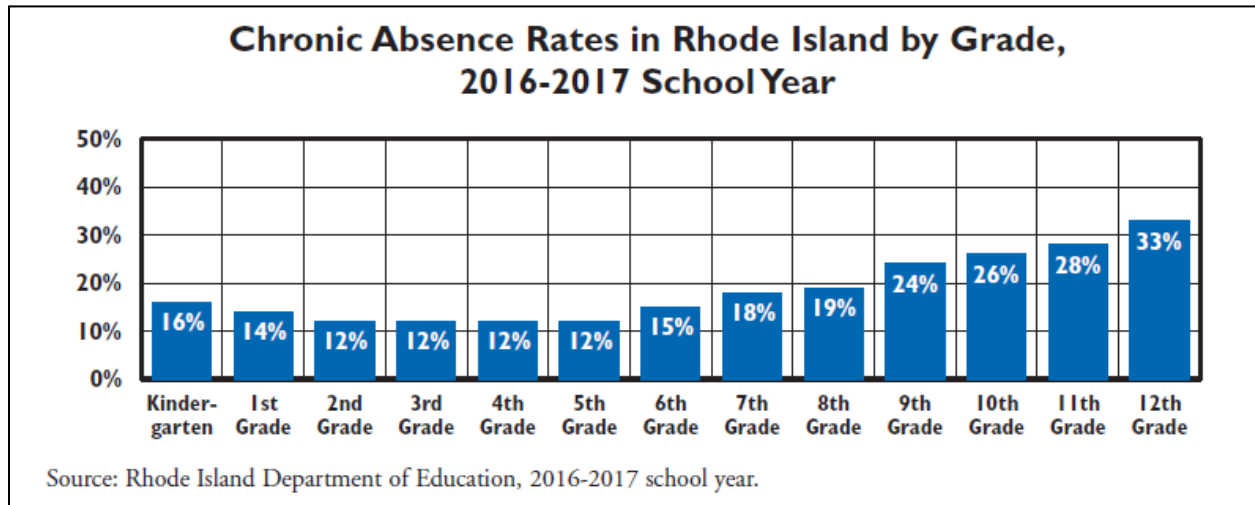
*Change calculations may reflect rounding.

- In Rhode Island in 2017, 25% of low-income third graders met expectations in reading, compared with 57% of higher-income third graders. There were also large achievement gaps by race and ethnicity as well as by English learner and disability status.
- Policymakers can increase third-grade reading proficiency by increasing access to high-quality child care, Pre-K, and Head Start; providing parents with supports to create enriched language and literacy opportunities beginning at birth; expanding access to high-quality summer learning programs; and addressing chronic early absence.

Improvements in math skills among Rhode Island students.

- From 2015 to 2017, the percentage of students meeting expectations on the *PARCC* math assessment increased for third, fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh grades. In 2017, 44% of Rhode Island third graders met expectations on the *PARCC* math assessment, up from 36% in 2015.

Chronic absence remains an area for improvement in Rhode Island schools.



- During the 2016-2017 school year, 13% of all Rhode Island children in grades K-3 were chronically absent, and an additional 16% missed 12 to 17 days of school. This is an increase from the year prior, when 11% of all Rhode Island children in grades K-3 were chronically absent, and an additional 14% missed 12 to 17 days of school.
- During the 2016-2017 school year, the chronic absence rate among middle (29%) and high (47%) school students was higher than the year prior (25% of middle school students and 42% of high school students).
- Thirty-seven states are prioritizing reducing chronic absence by making chronic absence rates a key part of their accountability systems in their ESSA state plans. Rhode Island is including both student and teacher chronic absence rates in its accountability system.

Reductions in out of school suspensions.

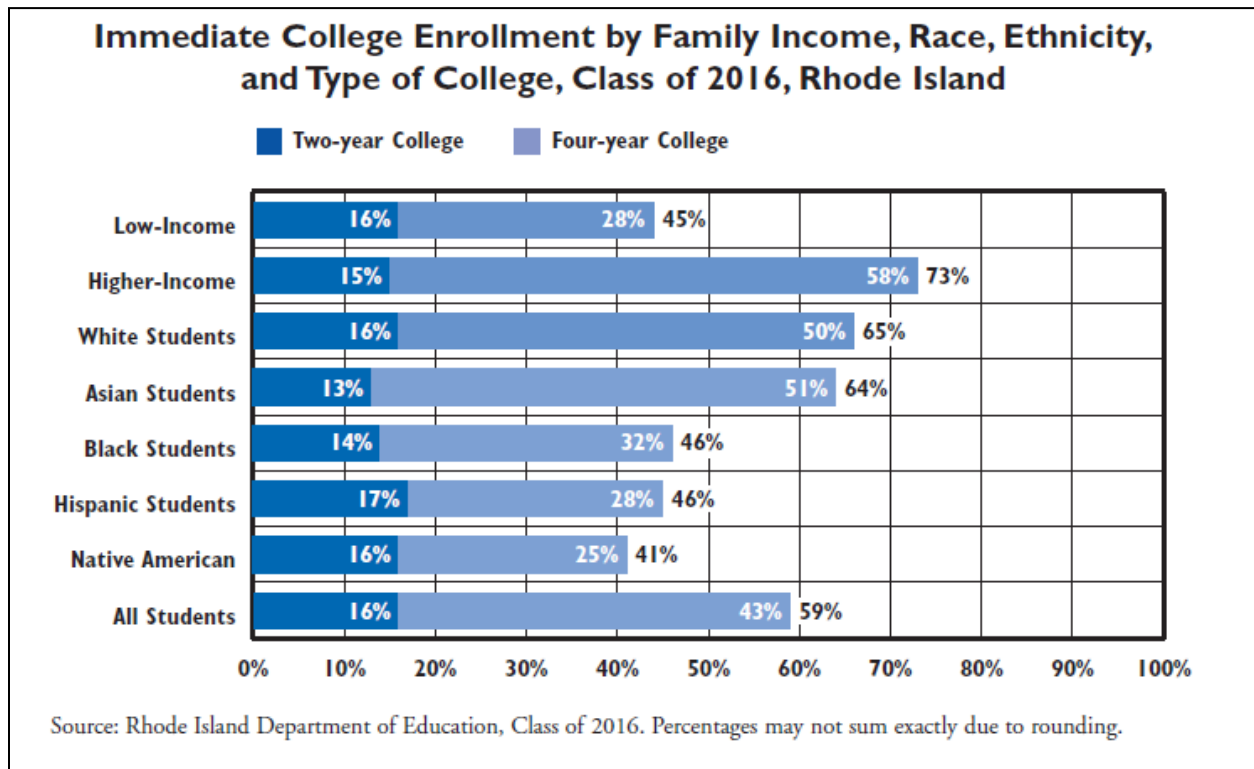
- During the 2016-2017 school year, kindergarteners received 148 out-of-school suspensions. This is a decrease from the year prior, when kindergartners received 179 out-of-school suspensions.
- From the 2015-2016 school year to the 2016-2017 school year, the number of out-of-school suspensions in all grades decreased by 14%, but more than half of out-of-school suspensions were still for non-violent offenses, such as insubordination/disrespect, disorderly conduct, obscene/abusive language, alcohol/drug/tobacco offenses, and electronic devices/technology offenses.

Slight increase in the high school graduation rate.

- The Rhode Island four-year graduation rate for the Class of 2017 was 84%, up from 83% for the Class of 2016.

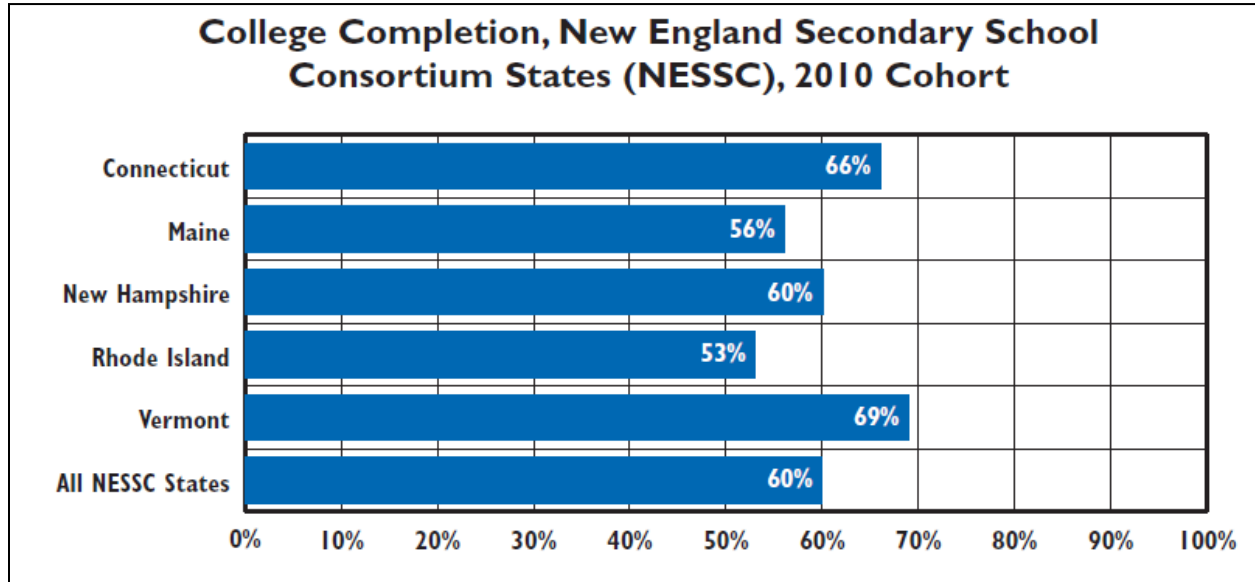
Rhode Island students are preparing for college, but disparities in college enrollment exist.

- Rhode Island covers the cost for all high school students to take the SAT during the school day in eleventh grade as a key strategy to increase college access. In 2017, 79% of 11th graders completed the SAT.
- Students who participate in AP courses are likely to attend and succeed in college. In 2017, 5,542 Rhode Island public school students took an AP course, 34% more than in 2013.
- 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. Across Rhode Island school districts, FAFSA completion rates range from a low of 40-44% to a high of 80% or greater.



- Fifty-nine percent of Rhode Island students who graduated from high school in the Class of 2016 immediately enrolled in college. However, 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. While 73% of higher income students immediately enrolled in college, 45% of low-income students immediately enrolled in college.

College enrollment and completion



- Fifty-three percent of Rhode Island public high school graduates who enrolled in a two- or four-year college in 2010 earned a college diploma within six years.
- In Rhode Island, there are large gaps in college completion between low-income and higher-income students, with 37% of low-income students completing college within six years, compared to 60% of higher-income students.

Rhode Island is ranked best in the country for teens not in school and not working.

- Work experience during the teen years increases academic achievement, employability, and wages into early adulthood.
- 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.
- Expanding work-based learning opportunities can help more youth in Rhode Island successfully transition into college and careers. 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 their future. Many work-based learning internship programs allow youth to receive school credit and/or earn money, while gaining important workplace experience.
- Rhode Island ranks best in the nation and in New England for having the fewest teens not in school and not working.

| Teens Not in School and Not Working | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| 2016 | |
| RI | 3% |
| US | 7% |
| National Rank* | 1st |
| New England Rank** | 1st |

**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