

Data in Your Backyard

2006 Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Factbook

Woonsocket



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Woonsocket, Rhode Island

Sponsored by

**Rhode Island KIDS COUNT &
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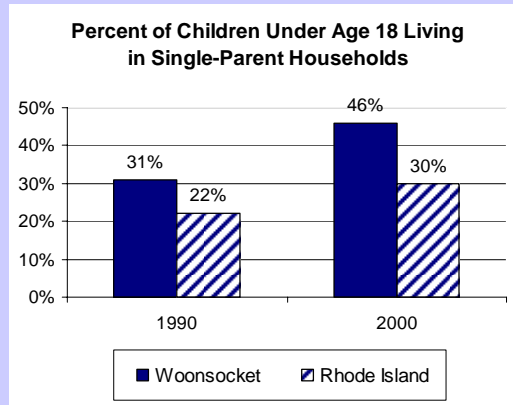
Family and Community

Woonsocket Child Population, By Race and Ethnicity, 2000

| Population Under 18 Years of Age | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Hispanic or Latino | 2,024 (18%) |
| White, non-Hispanic | 7,272 (65%) |
| Black | 606 (5%) |
| Asian | 591 (5%) |
| Two or More Races | 582 (5%) |
| Other | <u>80 (<1%)</u> |
| Total | 11,155 |

❖ According to the 2004 American Community Survey, there were 243,667 children under age 18 in Rhode Island, representing 23% of the state's population (a decrease from 24% in 2000). The largest increase in the population ages birth to 19 between 2000 and 2004 was led by minority children.

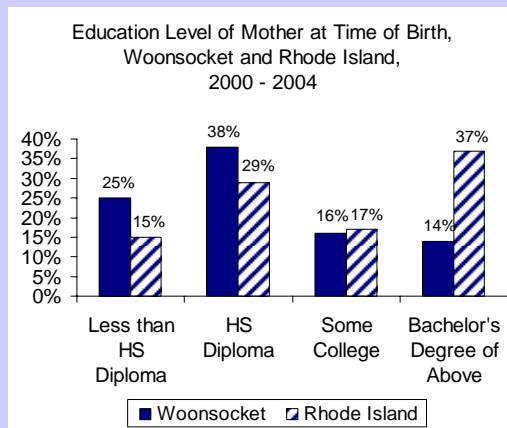
Children in Single-Parent Families



Source: U. S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census of Population and Census 2000.

- ❖ In 2000, 4,707 (46%) of children in Woonsocket lived in single-parent families.
- ❖ In 2004 in Rhode Island, 34% of children lived in a single-parent family, a 23% increase from 2000. Rhode Island ranked 48th out of 50 states (where 1st is best) in the U.S. for the highest rate of children living in single-parent families.

Mother's Education Level



Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, 2000-2004.

- ❖ In Woonsocket, 25% of new mothers between 2000 and 2004 had less than a high school diploma, higher than the state average of 15%. The proportion of new mothers with a Bachelor's degree or above is smaller in Woonsocket (14%) than in the state as a whole (37%).

Infants Born at Highest Risk

Infants Born with Identified Risk Factors, Rhode Island, 2004

| | # OF BIRTHS | # BORN AT HIGHEST RISK* | # BORN AT RISK** |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Central Falls | 409 | 40 | 375 |
| Newport | 314 | 28 | 216 |
| Pawtucket | 1,115 | 71 | 916 |
| Providence | 2,938 | 268 | 2,543 |
| West Warwick | 387 | 18 | 253 |
| Woonsocket | 568 | 59 | 482 |
| Core Cities | 5,731 | 484 | 4,785 |
| Remainder of State | 6,595 | 150 | 3,572 |
| Rhode Island | 12,710 | 639 | 8,542 |

* births to mothers who were younger than 20, single, and without a high school degree

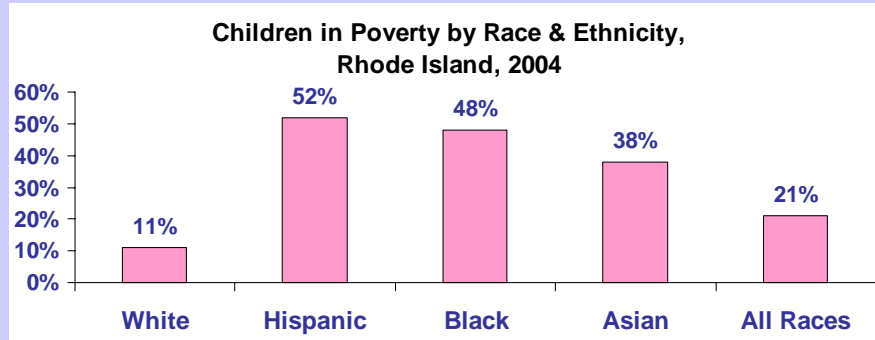
** births with at least one risk factor identified by the Rhode Island Department of Health's Newborn Risk Assessment Program.

Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, KIDSNET database, 2004.

- ❖ There are three important social and economic risk factors present at birth that, when combined, strongly predict childhood poverty and poor education outcomes – *having a mother who is younger than 20, unmarried and without a high school degree.*
- ❖ In 2004, 5% of babies were born to Rhode Island women who were under age 20, unmarried and had less than 12 years of education. In Woonsocket, 10% of babies were born at highest risk, tied for the highest in the state with Central Falls.

Economic Well-Being

Poverty by Race/Ethnicity



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2004.

- ❖ The percentage of Rhode Island's children living in poverty increased from 16% in 2000 to 21% in 2004 and is the highest percentage of childhood poverty in New England.

Children in Poverty

Children <18 Living Below the Federal Poverty Threshold:

| | <u>1990</u> | <u>2000</u> |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| Woonsocket | 2,235 (21.4%) | 3,494 (31.8%) |
| Rhode Island | 30,022 (13.5%) | 41,162 (16.9%) |

Children < 18 Living in Extreme Poverty:

| | <u>2000</u> |
|--------------|---------------|
| Woonsocket | 2,061 (18.8%) |
| Rhode Island | 19,773 (8.1%) |

Young Children in Poverty

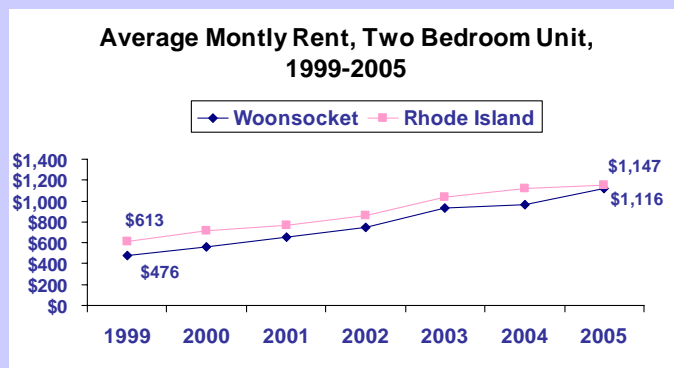
Children < 6 Living Below the Federal Poverty Threshold:

| | <u>1990</u> | <u>2000</u> |
|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| Woonsocket | 1,034 (27%) | 1,361 (35%) |
| Rhode Island | 12,912 (16%) | 14,548 (19.2%) |

Children < 6 Living in Extreme Poverty:

| | <u>2000</u> |
|--------------|--------------|
| Woonsocket | 772 (19.9%) |
| Rhode Island | 7,230 (9.5%) |

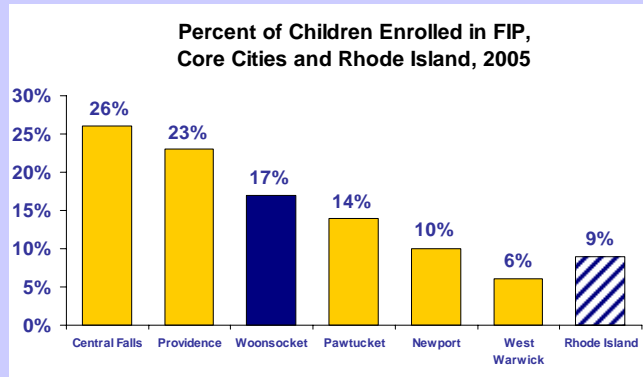
Cost of Rent



Source: Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation Annual Rent Surveys.

- ❖ Housing is affordable if it consumes 30% or less of a family's household income. A family of three living at the poverty level in Woonsocket would have to devote 83% of their household income to the cost of rent.
- ❖ To afford the average rent (\$1,147) in Rhode Island without a cost burden, a worker would need to earn \$22.06 per hour for forty hours a week, more than three and a half times the state's minimum wage in 2005 of \$6.75 per hour.

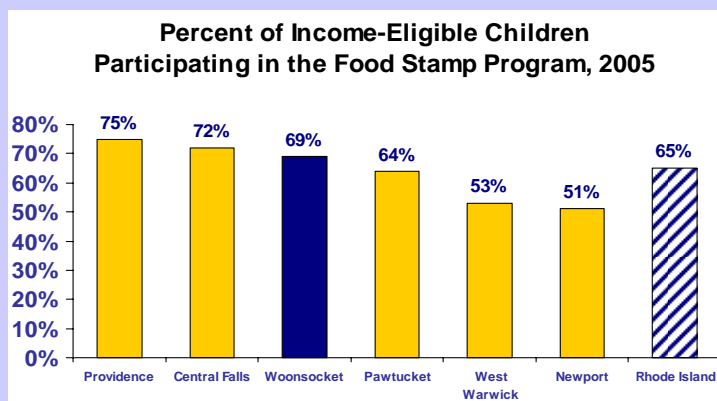
Children Enrolled in the Family Independence Program



Source: Rhode Island Department of Human Services.

- ❖ In Woonsocket in 2005, 17% of all children <18 were enrolled in the Family Independence Program (FIP).
- ❖ Nearly three-quarters (71%) of all FIP beneficiaries in the state are children under the age of 18, with more than two out of five (42%) children enrolled in FIP are under the age of six.

Children Receiving Food Stamp



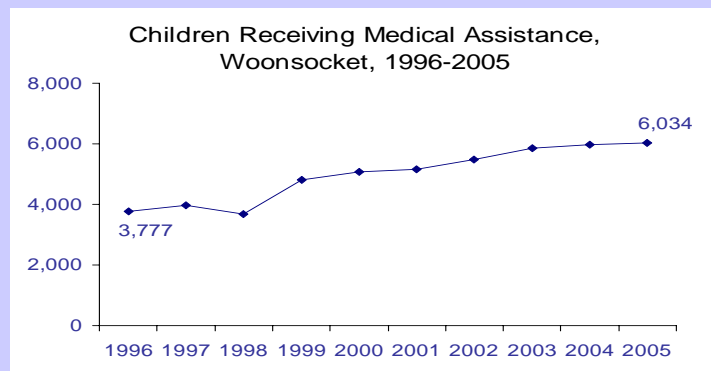
Source: Rhode Island Department of Human Services, InRhodes Database, 2005.

- ❖ In October 2005 in Woonsocket, 2,833 out of 4,125 estimated eligible children under age 18 were participating in the Food Stamp Program.

Note: Estimates of the percentage eligible for the FSP are based on the total number of children under 18 living in families with incomes below 130% of the FPL according to the 2000 census.

Health

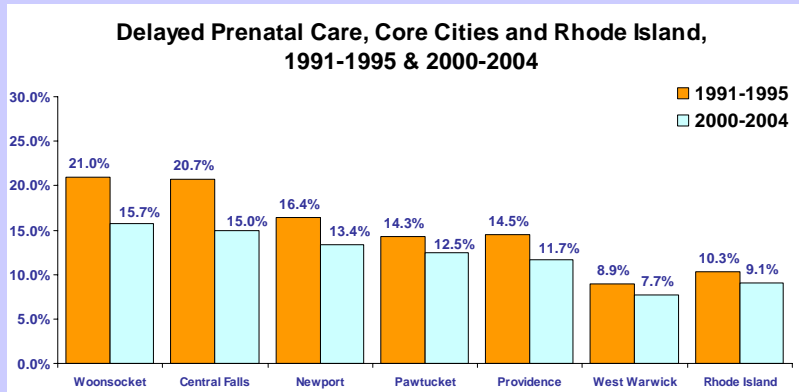
Children Receiving Medical Assistance



❖ In addition to the 5,336 (88%) Woonsocket children receiving RItE Care assistance in 2005, 698 received medical assistance through SSI, the adoption subsidy, foster care or Katie Becket provision.

❖ As of 2004, there were 16,000 uninsured children under age 19 in Rhode Island. Of these, an estimated 10,000 Rhode Island children were eligible for RItE Care but uninsured.

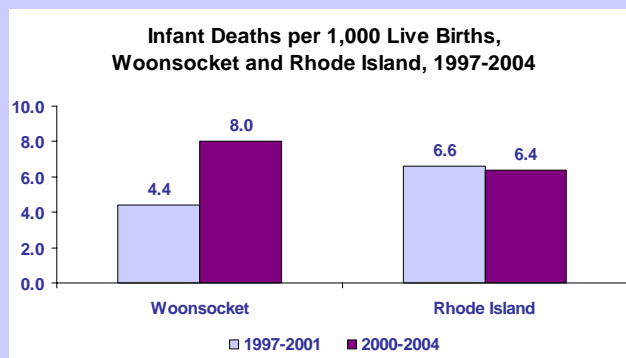
Women with Delayed Prenatal Care



Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Division of Family Health, Maternal and Child Health Database.

- ❖ In 2000-2004, Woonsocket had the highest rate of delayed prenatal care in the state, despite a 25% reduction from 1991-1995.
- ❖ Women in the core cities and in Westerly are almost twice as likely to receive delayed prenatal care as women in the remainder of the state. Between 2000 and 2004, 12.3% of women in the core cities and 6.5% of women in the remainder of the state received delayed prenatal care.

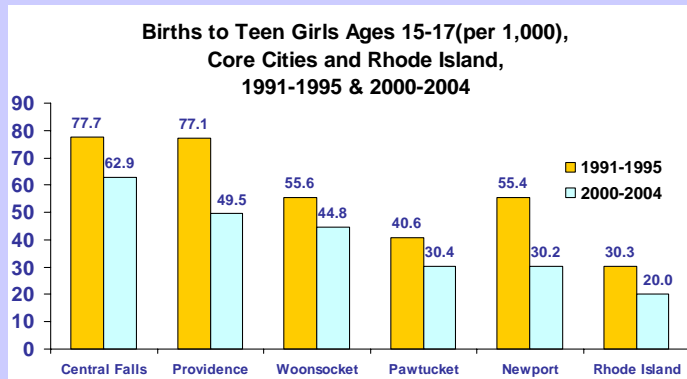
Infant Mortality Rate



Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Division of Family Health, Maternal and Child Health Database.

- ❖ The rate of infant deaths per 1,000 births in Woonsocket began trending upward during the 1997-2001 period, after a dramatic decline over the previous decade.
- ❖ Between 1997-2001 and 2000-2004, the Woonsocket infant mortality rate increased 82% from 4.4 deaths per 1,000 births to 8.0 per 1,000 births.

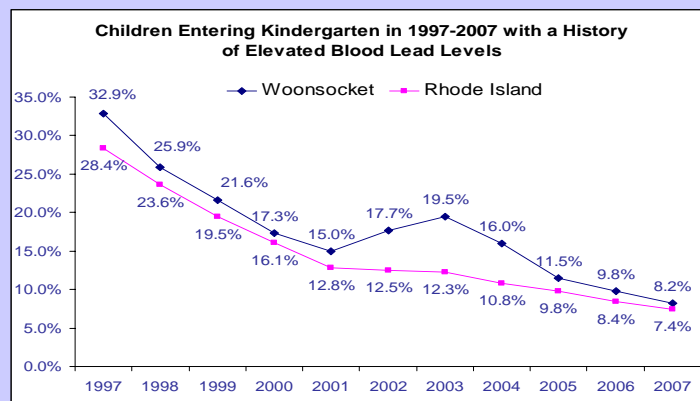
Birth to Teens



Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, 1988-2004.

- ❖ The rate of births to teen girls ages 15 to 17 dropped in Woonsocket from 55.6 per 1,000 to 44.8 per 1,000 over the decade. This is still more than double the state rate of 20.0.
- ❖ In 2000-2004 there were 190 births to teen girls ages 15 to 17 in Woonsocket.
- ❖ Over the past decade, teen birth rates for Rhode Island girls ages 15 to 17 declined in all geographic areas. Despite the decreases, teen girls in the core cities give birth at five times the rate of girls of the same age in the remainder of the state.

Children with Lead Poisoning



Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Division of Family Health and Division of Environmental Health, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program.

- ❖ Despite declines in lead poisoning rates, kindergarten children living in core cities are more than two times as likely to have a history of elevated blood lead levels (11%) as those in the remainder of the state (5%).

Note: Children entering Kindergarten with Lead Poisoning is the percentage of three-year old children screened for lead poisoning who had elevated blood levels at any time prior to December 31.

Overweight Children and Youth

Perceptions of Weight and Weight Loss Behaviors Among High School Students, Rhode Island, 2005

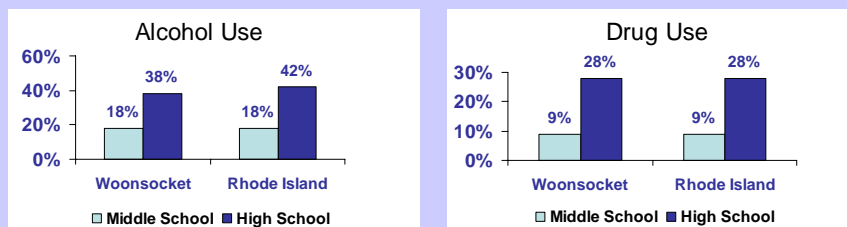
| | ALL | MALE | FEMALE |
|--|-----|------|--------|
| Students who were overweight | 13% | 17% | 9% |
| Students who described themselves as overweight | 33% | 29% | 37% |
| Students who were trying to lose weight | 45% | 32% | 59% |
| <i>To Lose or Keep from Gaining Weight:</i> | | | |
| Students who ate less food, fewer calories, or low-fat foods | 39% | 28% | 50% |
| Students who went without eating for 24 hours or more | 12% | 8% | 16% |
| Students who took diet pills, powders, or liquids | 6% | 6% | 5% |
| Students who vomited or took laxatives | 5% | 4% | 6% |

Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Information and Communication, Rhode Island Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2005. *During the past 30 days. Estimates of overweight may be low as they are based on self-reported height and weight.

- ❖ A 2003 study showed 16% of Rhode Island children ages 6-17 were overweight and 15% were at risk for being overweight.
- ❖ The rate of obesity in Rhode Island high school students increased from 9% in 2001 to 13% in 2005, a statistically significant increase.
- ❖ Although 13% of Rhode Island high school students were overweight in 2005, 33% considered themselves overweight and many attempted to lose weight by changing their eating and exercise habits.

Alcohol and Drug Use by Teens

Alcohol and Drug Use by Teens, 2004-2005, Woonsocket and Rhode Island

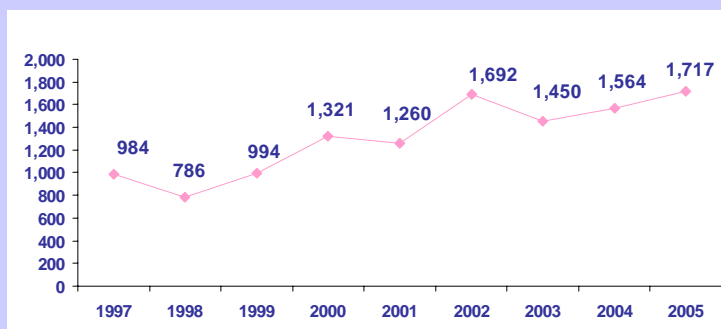


Source: SALT Survey, 2004-2005.

- ❖ In Woonsocket, 18% of middle school students and 38% of high school students reported using alcohol in the past 30 days.
- ❖ In Woonsocket, 9% of middle school students and 28% of high school students reported drug use in the past 30 days, equal to drug use statewide.

Safety

Homeless Children & Homeless Youth



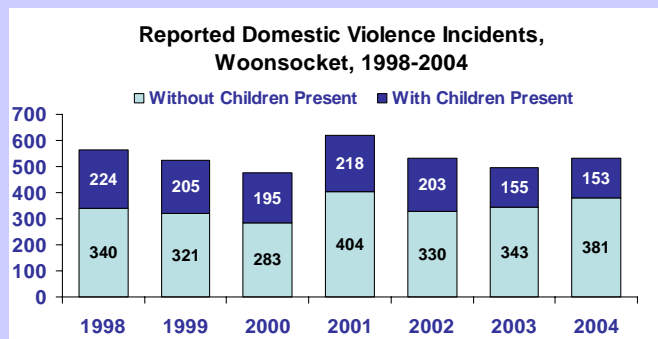
Source: Rhode Island Emergency Shelter Information Project, 1997-2005.

- ❖ Nearly half (45%) of the 1,717 children receiving shelter in Rhode Island between July 1, 2004 and June 30, 2005, were ages 5 or under. Thirty-eight percent of children were ages 6 to 12.
- ❖ Between July 1, 2004 and June 30, 2005, 301 youth, ages 13 to 17, entered the Rhode Island Emergency Shelter system accompanied by a parent or another adult, an increase of 370% since 1998.
- ❖ Between July 1, 2004 and June 30, 2005, 572 shelter clients reported Woonsocket as their last city of residence. This is an increase of 37% from last year alone.

Children of Incarcerated Parents

- ❖ In 2005, 1,433 incarcerated parents in Rhode Island reported having 3,099 children.
- ❖ While women only comprise 5% of the total inmate population in Rhode Island, they are the faster growing group in the prison population, with an increase of 1140% over the last 30 years.
- ❖ In 2005, 76 adults incarcerated in Rhode Island from Woonsocket reported having 168 children, a rate of 15.1 per 1,000 children, compared to 12.5 per 1,000 in the state.

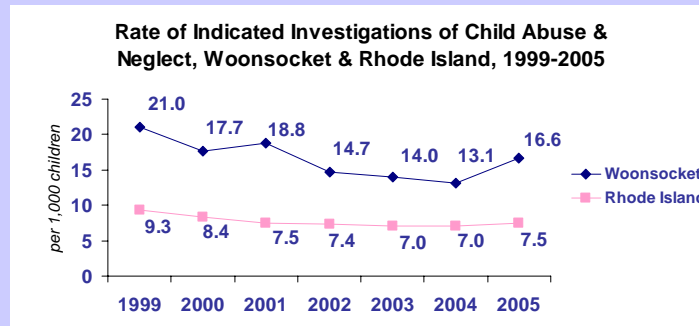
Children Witnessing Domestic Violence



Source: Rhode Island Supreme Court Domestic Violence Training and Monitoring Unit.

- ❖ In 2004, there were 534 reports of domestic violence incidents in Woonsocket. Of the total reports, 153 (29%) noted that children were present.
- ❖ The number of domestic violence incidents reported to Rhode Island police peaked at 8,901 in 2001 and has since declined to 8,143 reported in 2004. The number of reported incidents with children present followed a similar pattern, with a high of 3,092 in 2001 and a decline to 2,508 in 2004.

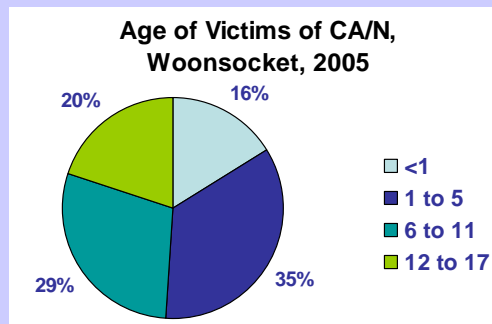
Child Abuse and Neglect



Source: Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, (RICHIST)

- ❖ Woonsocket had 212 indicated investigations of child abuse and neglect in 2005, an increase from 168 the previous year. While the rate of indicated cases per 1,000 children for Woonsocket had declined from 21.0 in 1999 to 13.1 in 2004, the rate increased in 2005 to 16.6 per 1,000 children and is the highest in the state.
- ❖ Fifty-seven percent of indicated investigations of child abuse and neglect in 2005 occurred in one of the six core cities, even though only 39% of the state's population under 21 lives in those communities.

Woonsocket Child Abuse and Neglect

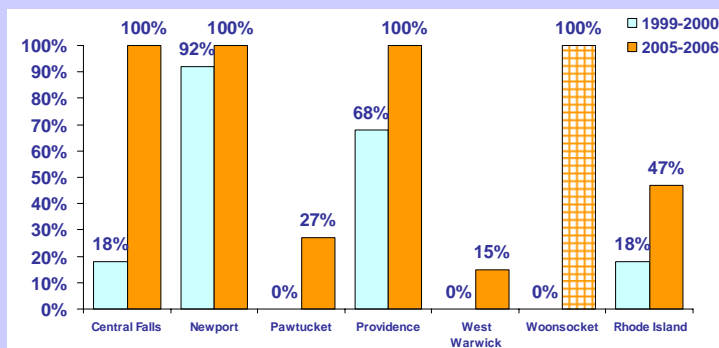


Source: Department of Children, Youth and Families, 2005.

- ❖ In 2005 there were 498 reported incidents of child abuse and neglect in Woonsocket.
- ❖ More than half (51%) of the 308 unique victims in Woonsocket were under the age of 6.
- ❖ Of the 400 indicated neglect incidents, 54% involved "other neglect" and 40% of involved lack of supervision with or without a caretaker.
- ❖ Of the 98 indicated abuse incidents, 37% involved excessive or inappropriate discipline, 36% resulted in a physical injury, 14% were sexual abuse and 11% involved drug/alcohol abuse.

Education

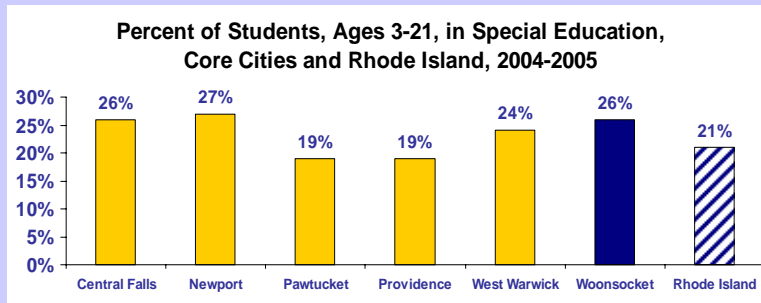
Children in Full-Day Kindergarten



Source: Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 1999-2000 and 2004-2005.

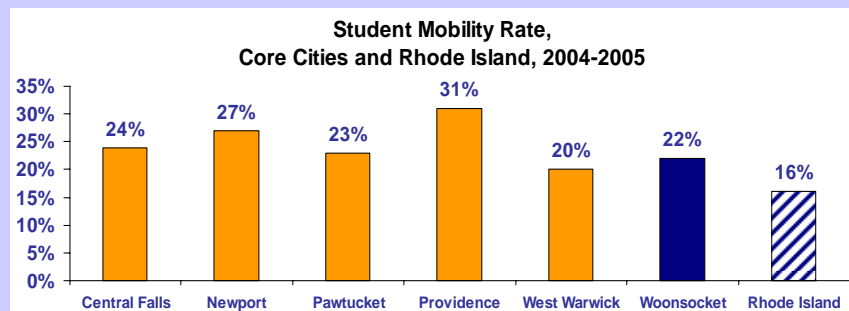
- ❖ In Rhode Island in 2005-2006, 47% of children who attended kindergarten were in a full day program.
- ❖ As of the 2005-2006 school year, 12 school districts offered universal access to full-day kindergarten programs, including Woonsocket. Another 9 school districts operated at least one full-day kindergarten classroom.
- ❖ The percentage of children participating in full-day kindergarten in the core cities has nearly doubled, from 40% in 1999-2000 to 82% in 2005-2006.

Children Enrolled in Special Education



- ❖ In the 2004-2005 school year, 26% of Woonsocket's children ages 3-21 were enrolled in special education, compared to 21% for the state as a whole.
- ❖ Between 1992-1993 and 2004-2005 school years, special education enrollment in Rhode Island increased from 16% to 21%.
- ❖ In the 2003-2004 school year (the most recent year national data were tabulated), Rhode Island had the highest percentage of public school students identified as disabled and receiving special education services.

Student Mobility



- ❖ The core city aggregate mobility rate (27%) is almost three times that of the remainder of cities and towns (10%) and higher than the state rate (16%).
- ❖ In Rhode Island, students who move are absent more often than students who do not move. Thirty-one percent of students who did not move missed 16 or more days of school, compared to 42% of students who moved at least once during the same time period. *In 2005, the high school attendance rate in Woonsocket was 86%, compared to 90% for the state as a whole.*
- ❖ Children who move perform worse on standardized tests than children who have not experienced mobility. The more frequent the number of moves, the worse the performance.

* The mobility rate is the total children enrolled and exited during a year over the total year's enrollment.

2006 New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) District Results

| 2006 NECAP District Summary Results | | | |
|--|------------|-------------|------------|
| Proficiency Across All Grades (3-8), Core Cities | | | |
| | Reading | Mathematics | Writing |
| Central Falls | 34% | 21% | 27% |
| Newport | 46% | 40% | 41% |
| Pawtucket | 45% | 38% | 48% |
| Providence | 30% | 24% | 29% |
| West Warwick | 56% | 43% | 53% |
| Woonsocket | 39% | 32% | 26% |
| Rhode Island | 59% | 50% | 51% |

Source: Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

❖ NECAP is the New England Common Assessment Program. There are four levels of proficiency: Proficient with Distinction, Proficient, Partially Proficient and Substantially Below Proficient.

High School Performance

- ❖ In 2005 a total of 27 high schools (47%) across Rhode Island were classified as high performing.
- ❖ In 2005 there were 13 high schools (23%) classified as moderately performing.
- ❖ In 2005, 17 Rhode Island high schools (30%) were classified as in need of improvement. Fifteen of the high schools were operated by core city school districts and the remainder were operated by the state.
- ❖ The only high school in Woonsocket was classified as in need of improvement/insufficient progress.

School Suspensions

| School District | # of Students Enrolled | Out-of-School Suspension | In-School Suspension | Alternative Program Placement | Total Disp. Actions | Actions per 100 Students |
|-----------------|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Woonsocket | 6,590 | 2,539 | 2,394 | 3 | 4,936 | 75 |
| Core Cities | 51,766 | 15,960 | 8,960 | 347 | 25,267 | 49 |
| Rhode Island | 151,706 | 29,947 | 17,983 | 999 | 48,929 | 32 |

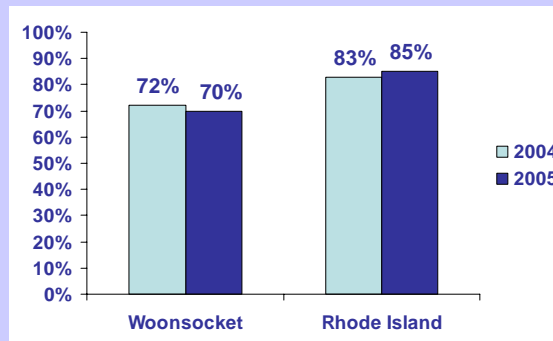
❖ In Woonsocket in the 2004-2005 school year, there were 75 disciplinary actions for every 100 students. This is more than double the state rate of 32 actions per every 100 students and was tied with Newport and Johnston for the highest rate in the state.

❖ Suspended students are more likely to have poor academic performance and to drop out of school.

❖ Low-income and minority students are at increased risk for suspension. In Rhode Island in 2004-2005, 52% of disciplinary actions were to students in the core cities.

* Actions per 100 students does not signify the number of students out of every 100, but the number of disciplinary actions assigned per 100 students.

High School Graduation Rate



Source: Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

❖ At 70%, Woonsocket has the third lowest graduation rate in the state, behind Central Falls (63%) and West Warwick (66%).

❖ In 2005 in Rhode Island, 85% of all students graduated, compared to 72% of students in the core cities and 91% of students in the remainder of the state.

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