

## Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Factbook: 2009 Changes

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### New Indicator:

**Housing and Health** → The 2009 Rhode Island Kids Count Factbook includes one new indicator: *Housing and Health*. *Housing and Health* is the percentage of children under age 18 who live in low-income families that reside in older housing, defined as housing built before 1980. Data are from the 2005-2007 American Community Survey (three-year average). Low-income families are those with incomes less than 200% of the federal poverty level. The ACS reports data on the year a housing structure was built by decade, so housing built before 1980 is the best available approximation for housing built before 1978 (when lead paint was banned from interior use in the United States).

### Changes to Existing Indicators:

**Children in Families Receiving Cash Assistance** → The name of this indicator was changed from *Children in the Family Independence Program* to *Children in Families Receiving Cash Assistance*. This indicator includes detailed information on changes in eligibility and processes that occurred when the Rhode Island Works Program (RI Works) replaced the Family Independence Program (FIP).

**Children Receiving Food Stamps/SNAP Benefits** → The name of this indicator was changed to reflect the federal name change from the Food Stamp Program to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). This indicator includes information on changes in eligibility criteria and benefit amounts related to federal program changes.

**Children with Health Insurance** → Starting this year, health insurance coverage data from the Current Population Survey (CPS) are labeled to reflect actual years of coverage, rather than the years in which the data were released. CPS data are collected in March and released in August in the year after the one to which the data refer (i.e., data referring to coverage in 2007 are collected in March 2008 and released in August 2008).

**Child Abuse and Neglect** → This year the definition of *Child Abuse and Neglect* has been changed to the rate of unduplicated child victims per 1,000 children under age 18. The denominator for the rate has also been changed from children and youth under age 21 to those under age 18 to reflect the recent statutory changes in Rhode Island law.

**Adoption and Permanency** → The name of this indicator was changed from *Permanency for Children in DCYF Care* to *Adoption and Permanency*.

**Head Start and Early Head Start** → This year the "estimated number of children eligible" for both Head Start and Early Head Start was changed to include children in families with incomes up to 130% of the federal poverty guidelines (from 100% in previous years). This reflects a change in eligibility requirements passed as part of the federal *Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act* of 2007. In addition, the Head Start indicator's city/town table includes all children enrolled in Head Start (not just those ages 3-4).

**Schools Making Insufficient Progress** → The name of this indicator was changed from *High Performing Schools* to *Schools Making Insufficient Progress* to reflect the fact that RIDE has changed the classification categories and is no longer using the high performing classification. The new classifications are schools making insufficient progress, schools "with caution," schools that "met AYP" (annual yearly progress), and schools that "met AYP and were commended."

**High School Graduation Rate** → This year the new four-year cohort graduation and dropout rates were used in this indicator, making it comparable to the *Issue Brief* supplement from June 2008 (that had the cohort graduation rates for the class of 2007) but not comparable to any previous Factbooks. The new rates are included for every school district for graduation, dropouts, students receiving a GED within four years and students who are enrolled in school the fall following their senior year (i.e. students taking more than four years to graduate).