

2011 Rhode Island Kids Count Factbook: Child Welfare Indicators

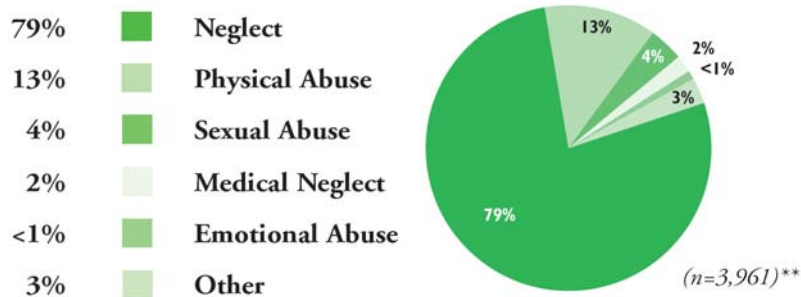
The Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) Caseload

- ♦ The total caseload of DCYF on December 31, 2010 was 7,384, including 2,344 children living in their homes under DCYF supervision and 2,698 children living in adoption placements. This is a 22% decrease in the DCYF caseload, down from 9,414 in 2006.

Child Abuse and Neglect

- ♦ Almost half of the victims of child abuse and neglect in Rhode Island in 2010 were young children under age six and more than one-third (35%) were age three and younger.
- ♦ In 2010, the child abuse and neglect rate for Rhode Island as a whole was 13.3 per 1,000 children under age 18. The rate in the core cities was 21 per 1,000 children, compared to 8.8 per 1,000 in the remainder of the state. The statewide, core cities and remainder of the state rates are all up from 2009.

Child Abuse and Neglect, Rhode Island, 2010



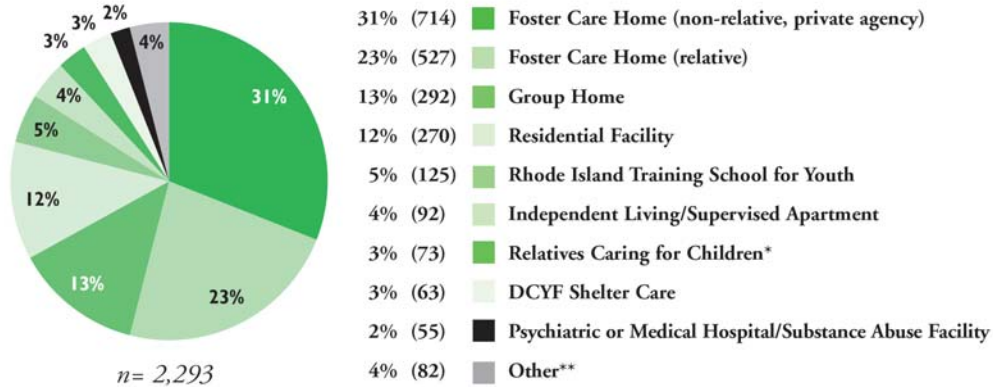
- ♦ In 2010, 79% of all instances of abuse and neglect were a result of neglect; 13% were physical abuse; 4% were sexual abuse; 2% were medical neglect; <1% were emotional abuse; and 3% were other types of abuse.
- ♦ Between 2001 and 2010, 20 children in Rhode Island died as a result of injuries due to abuse by a parent or caretaker. In 2010, no children died as a result of child abuse and/or neglect.
- ♦ Of the 1,539 children who were victims of abuse or neglect in Rhode Island during FFY 2010 (whether or not they were removed from the home), 9.8% experienced one or more recurrences of abuse or neglect within six months, down from a recent peak of 13.3% in FFY 2007. The national standard is 6.1% or fewer.

Out-Home-Placement

- ♦ As of December 31, 2010, there were 2,293 children under age 21 in the care of DCYF who were in out-of-home placements, a 31% decrease from 3,311 in 2006.
- ♦ On December 31, 2010 in Rhode Island, there were 591 children under age 19 in DCYF care who were in out-of-home placements with a grandparent or other relative. These children made up 27% of all children in out-of-home placements in Rhode Island.

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Children in Out-of-Home Placement, Rhode Island, December 31, 2010



Older Youth in State Care

- Between FFY 2006 and FFY 2010, there were 658 Rhode Island youth who aged out of foster care with no permanent placement. This was a 61% increase from the previous five year period when 409 youth aged out of care.

Adoption and Permanency

- In FFY 2010, 1,241 children in out-of-home placement in Rhode Island exited care. Of the children who exited care, 86% exited to a permanent placement (adoption, guardianship or reunification).
- The percentage of children in the Rhode Island child welfare system who were reunified with their family of origin in less than 12 months from the time of removal from the home increased from 68% in FFY 2009 to 71% of children in FFY 2010. The national standard is 76%.

Exits from Foster Care*, Rhode Island, FFY 2010

	ALL EXITS	WITH DISABILITY	OVER AGE 12 AT ENTRY
Adoption	15%	17%	<1%
Guardianship	8%	5%	3%
Reunification	63%	56%	70%
Aged Out	9%	NA**	15%
Other	6%	22%	12%
Total Number	1,241	410	539

- In FFY 2010, 41% of children in the Rhode Island child welfare system were adopted within 24 months from the time of removal from their home, down from 49% in FFY 2006 but up from 31% in FFY 2007. The national standard is 32% of adoptions occurring within 24 months of the child's removal.

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- ◆ The uncertainty of multiple, prolonged or unstable out-of-home placements can negatively affect children's emotional well-being identify formation and sense of belonging, which have an impact on behavior, academic achievement, health and long-term self-sufficiency. Two-thirds (66%) of children who had been in DCYF care more than 24 months experienced three or more placements.
- ◆ In FFY 2010, 16% of children in Rhode Island who entered out-of-home placement reentered care within 12 months of a prior episode, almost twice the national standard (8.6%).

Grandparents Caring for Grandchildren

- ◆ Grandparents can provide continuity and family support for children in vulnerable families. Children may be in grandparent care because they have a parent who is unemployed, abusive, neglectful, incarcerated, ill, and/or has a substance abuse problem.
- ◆ Between 2007 and 2009, 45% of the 4,729 Rhode Island grandparents who were financially responsible for their grandchildren had been responsible for the children for three or more years. During this period, there were a total of 11,426 children living in households headed by grandparents, though not all grandparents were financially responsible for their grandchildren.

Children of Incarcerated Parents

- ◆ Of the 2,641 inmates awaiting trial or serving a sentence at the Rhode Island ACI who were surveyed as of September 30, 2010 and answered the question on number of children, 1,763 inmates reported having 3,342 children. Thirty-one percent of incarcerated mothers had one to five year sentences and 27% of incarcerated fathers were sentenced to more than ten years.
- ◆ For most incarcerated parents, a supportive family, education, job training, stable housing, employment assistance, medical assistance and substance abuse treatment support the well-being of their children and their successful transition to the community after incarceration.

Children Witnessing Domestic Violence

- ◆ Children are exposed to domestic violence in several ways. They may witness or hear violent events, become directly involved by trying to intervene, or experience the aftermath of violence by seeing their parent's emotional and physical injuries or damage done to their homes.
- ◆ In Rhode Island in 2009, there were 5,086 domestic violence incidents that resulted in arrests. Children were reported present in 29% (1,490) of these incidents. Rhode Island police officers use special reporting forms to document children's exposure to violence. Police reported that children saw the domestic violence incident in 1,174 arrests and children heard the incident in 1,279 arrests during 2009. These incidents were not mutually exclusive and more than one child may have witnessed the incident.

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Racial and Ethnic Disparities

- ◆ Hispanic, Black and Native American children in Rhode Island are more likely than their White and Asian peers to be placed out of home through the child welfare system. Research shows disparate treatment of minority children as they enter the foster care system and while they are in the system. Black, Hispanic and Native American children are more likely than non-Hispanic White children under similar circumstances to be placed in foster care, remain in placements for longer times, have less contact with child welfare staff and to have lower reunification rates.

Safety Outcomes, by Race and Ethnicity, Rhode Island

	WHITE	HISPANIC	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	ALL RACES
Juveniles at the Training School* (per 1,000 males ages 14-19)	1.7	10.3	19.4	2.7	0	4.0
Children of Incarcerated Parents (per 1,000 children)	7.8	18.1	72.4	3.5	15.8	12.5
Children in Out-of-Home Placement (per 1,000 children)	7.3	16.1	28.7	5.9	8.7	9.2