

Data in Your Backyard

2007 Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Factbook

Westerly



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October 17, 2007

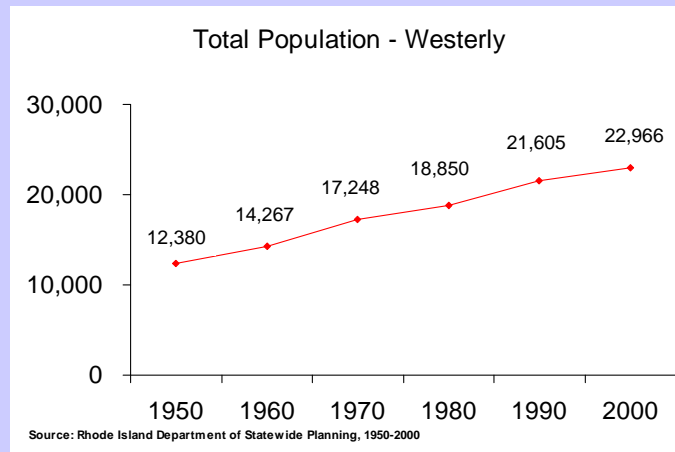
Westerly, Rhode Island

The 2007 Factbook is the 13th annual publication.

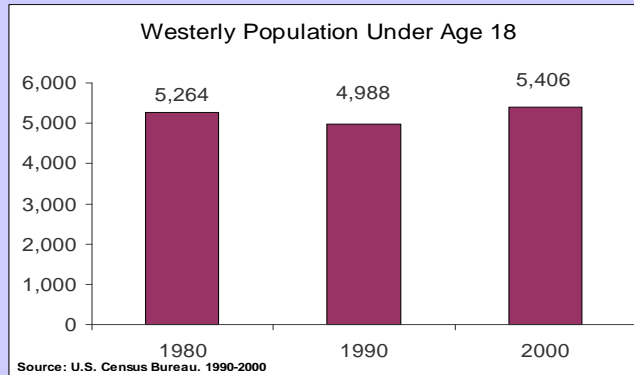
The 2007 Factbook contains 62 indicators of child well being. Most include city and town level information. This year's Factbook contains 2 new indicators: *Preterm Births* and *Eighth Grade Reading Skills*.

Family and Community

Westerly's Overall Population



Westerly's Child Population



❖ Children represent 23.5% of the total Westerly population.

❖ Child population as a percentage of total population decreased by 4.89% between 1980 and 2000.

Westerly Child Population by Race and Ethnicity

Population Under 18 Years of Age			Total Population		
White	4,994	(92.3%)	White	21,857	(95.2%)
Asian	143	(2.7%)	Asian	457	(2%)
Other*	269	(5%)	Hispanic	270	(1.2%)
Total	5,406		Black	164	(0.7%)
			Native	130	(0.6%)
			2 or more races	281	(1.2%)
			Other*	77	(0.3%)
			Total	22,966	

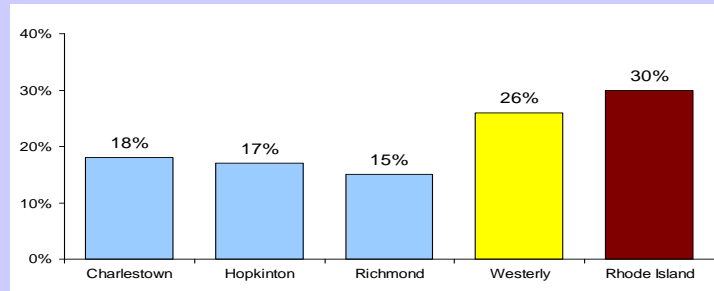
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000.

* In order to preserve the privacy of individuals the information for any ethnic group under 100 of the total population is not disclosed.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000

❖ The Westerly child population is ethnically homogeneous with white, non-Hispanic representing 92% of all children in the town.

Children in Single-Parent Families



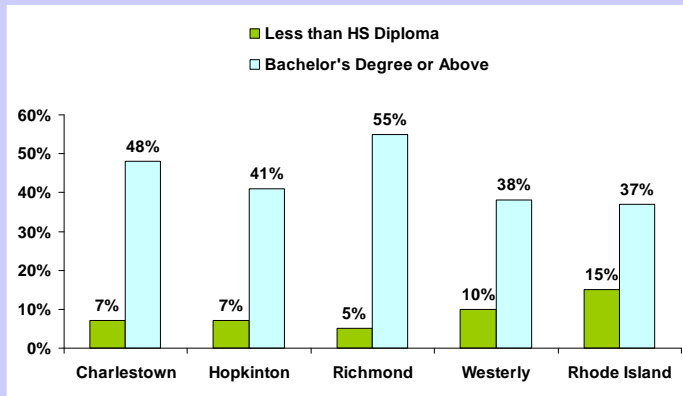
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000.

- ❖ In 2000, 26% of all children in Westerly were living in single-parent households. This is higher than the surrounding communities, but lower than the state average of 30%.
- ❖ The number of children in single-parent families in Westerly has increased by 12% between 1990 and 2000, a faster rate than in the state as a whole (8%).
- ❖ In 2005, Rhode Island ranked 46th out of 50 states (where 1st is best) in the U.S. for the highest rate of children living in single-parent families.
- ❖ In 2005, 82% of all poor children in Rhode Island lived in a single-parent family. Westerly has 150 single-mother families with related children under 18 living below poverty, representing 11.3% of total single-parent families.

Grandparents Caring for Grandchildren

- ❖ In 2005, 9,977 children in Rhode Island lived in households headed by grandparents. An additional 5,232 children lived in households headed by other relatives. In total, 6% of all children living in Rhode Island lived with relative caregivers.
- ❖ According to the Census, 3,804 grandparents were financially responsible for their grandchildren in 2005.
- ❖ 64% of Rhode Island grandparents financially responsible for their grandchildren in 2005 have been responsible for the children for three or more years.
- ❖ In 2000, Westerly had 268 grandparents living in households with their grandchildren. Of these grandparents, 120 (45%) were financially responsible for their grandchildren.

Mother's Education Level, 2001-2005



Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Division of Family Health, Maternal and Child Health Database, 2001-2005.

- ❖ Educational attainment in Westerly is higher than the state average, but generally lower than the neighboring towns in Washington county.
- ❖ Research shows strong links between parental education levels and a child's school readiness, health, and the level of education that the child will ultimately achieve.

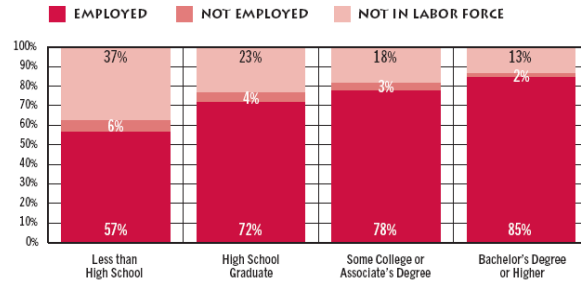
Infants Born at Highest Risk, 2006

	# of Births	# Born at Risk	# Born at Highest Risk
Charlestown	78	27	(1%)
Hopkinton	78	33	(0%)
Richmond	91	20	(0%)
Westerly	241	116	(1%)
Core Cities	5,659	4,842	405 (7%)
Remainder of State	6,282	3,811	137 (2%)
Rhode Island	11,945	8,653	542 (5%)

- ❖ Mothers younger than 20, single and without a high school degree constitute socio-economic risk factors that strongly predict childhood poverty and poor education outcomes.
- ❖ In 2006, 5% of Rhode Island babies were born at highest risk.
- ❖ In 2006, Westerly had 1% of births at highest risk, which is lower than the core cities and the state as a whole, but similar to Charlestown.

Education Matters for Employment

EMPLOYMENT STATUS BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, RHODE ISLAND, 2006

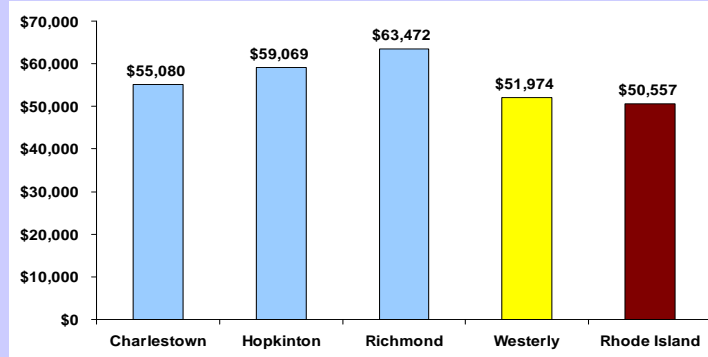


◆ In 2006 in Rhode Island, individuals with higher levels of education were more likely to be in the labor force and to be employed. Fifty-seven percent of individuals with education less than a high school diploma were employed, compared to 85% of those with a bachelor's degree or higher.

◆ For those individuals in the labor force in Rhode Island in 2006, 6% were unemployed, compared to 2% of those with a bachelor's degree or higher.

Economic Well-Being

Median Family Income with Children under 18, 1999

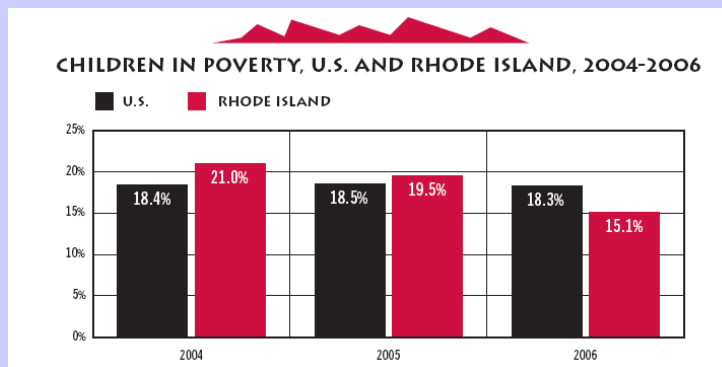


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000.

❖ The median family income in Westerly is lower than the neighboring towns in Washington county, but higher than the state median income.

❖ The Poverty Institute's 2006 *Rhode Island Standard of Need* states that a two-parent family with two children in which both parents are working would need an income of **\$47,196** to pay basic living expenses, including housing, food, clothing, health insurance, child care and transportation.

Child Poverty in Rhode Island

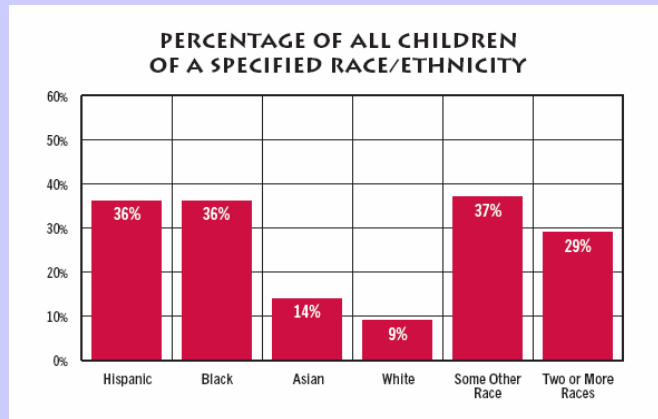


❖ According to ACS 2006, 15.1% (35,456) of Rhode Island's 234,711 children under age 18 lived below the federal poverty threshold. This is a significant decrease from 2004 when 21% (50,390) of Rhode Island children were living below the federal poverty threshold.

❖ Of the 35,456 children living in poverty, 43% lived in extreme poverty. In total, an estimated 6.5% (15,160) of all children in Rhode Island lived in extreme poverty. This is a decrease from the previous year when 10% of all Rhode Island children lived in extreme poverty.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2006.

Poverty by Race & Ethnicity, 2006



- ❖ While nearly half (44%) of all poor children in Rhode Island are White, children who are Hispanic, Black and Asian are much more likely to be living in poverty.
- ❖ Between 2005 and 2006 in Rhode Island, the child poverty rate dropped among children of all racial and ethnic backgrounds, with particularly large decreases among Hispanic and Black children.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2006.

Children in Poverty in Westerly

Children under Age 18 in Low-Income Families, 2000:

	<50% FPL	<100%FPL	<200% FPL
Charlestown	10 (1%)	78 (4.7%)	387 (23.4%)
Hopkinton	8 (<1%)	115 (5.9%)	419 (21.6%)
Richmond	60 (3.0%)	82 (4.2%)	279 (14.2%)
Westerly	105 (2%)	534 (10.0%)	1,460 (27.4%)
Rhode Island	19,773 (8.1%)	41,162 (16.9%)	83,420 (34.2%)

❖ The extreme poverty level in 2006 was family income below \$8,121 for a family of three with two children and \$10,222 for a family of four with two children.

❖ The poverty level in 2006 was family income below \$16,242 for a family of three with two children and \$20,444 for a family of four with two children.

❖ The low-income level in 2006 was family income below \$32,484 for a family of three with two children and \$40,888 for a family of four with two children.

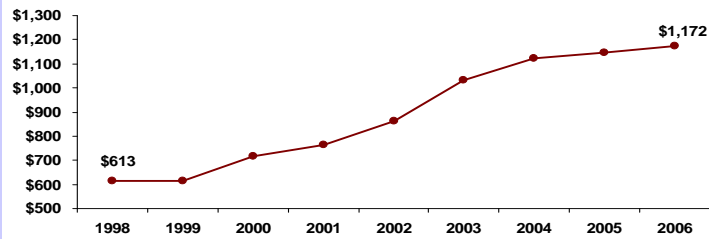
Young Children in Poverty

Children under Age 6 in Low-Income Families, 2000:

	<50% FPL	<100%FPL	100%-200% FPL
Charlestown	2 (<1%)	18 (3.7%)	113 (23.2%)
Hopkinton	0 (0%)	55 (8.9%)	187 (30.2%)
Richmond	17 (2.4%)	17 (2.4%)	80 (11.1%)
Westerly	0 (0%)	141 (8.0%)	516 (29.4%)
Rhode Island	7,230 (9.5%)	14,548 (19.2%)	28,282 (37.3%)

Cost of Rent

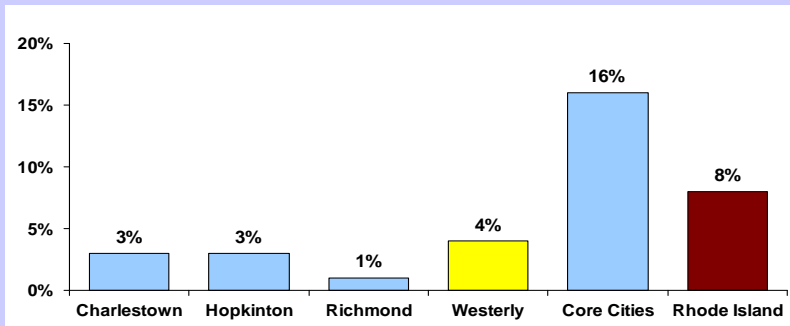
Average Cost of a Two Bedroom Apartment in Rhode Island, 1998-2006



Source: Rhode Island Department of Housing and Urban Development Rent Survey, 1998-2006.

- ❖ To afford the average rent of \$1,172 in Rhode Island without a cost burden, a worker would need to earn \$20.28 per hour for 40 hours a week. This is almost 3 times the state's minimum wage of \$7.10 per hour. Housing is affordable if it consumes 30% or less of a family's household income.
- ❖ With a household income of \$50,000, a family cannot afford a median-priced, single family home in any community in the state.
- ❖ In 2006, the average cost of housing in Westerly was \$1,104. A family of three living at the poverty level in Westerly would have to devote 81% of their household income to rent.

Children Enrolled in the Family Independence Program (FIP)

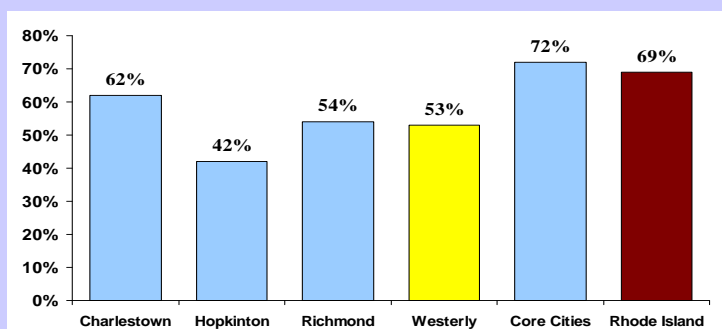


Source: Rhode Island Department of Human Services, 2006

- ❖ As of December 1, 2006, 134 families with 215 children were enrolled in FIP, representing 4% of all children in Westerly. Westerly had higher enrollment rates for low-income children than the surrounding communities.
- ❖ Nearly three-quarters (73%) of all Family Independence Program beneficiaries are children under the age of 18. More than two out of five (42%) children enrolled in FIP are under the age of six.

Children Receiving Food Stamps

Children Under Age 18 Receiving Food Stamps

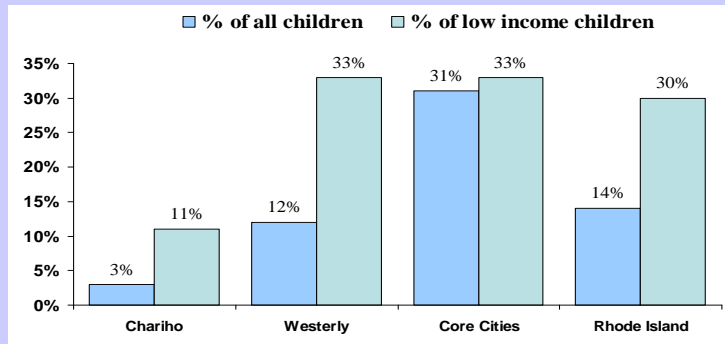


Source: Rhode Island Department of Human Services, 2006

- ❖ In 2006, 53% of children income-eligible for food stamps in Westerly participated in the program, compared to 69% statewide. Westerly's participation in the Food Stamp Program is in the median with neighboring towns in Washington County.
- ❖ Research shows that hunger and lack of regular access to sufficient food are linked to serious health, psychological, emotional and academic problems in children and can impede their healthy growth and development.

School Breakfast Program

Low-Income Children Participating in School Breakfast, 2006

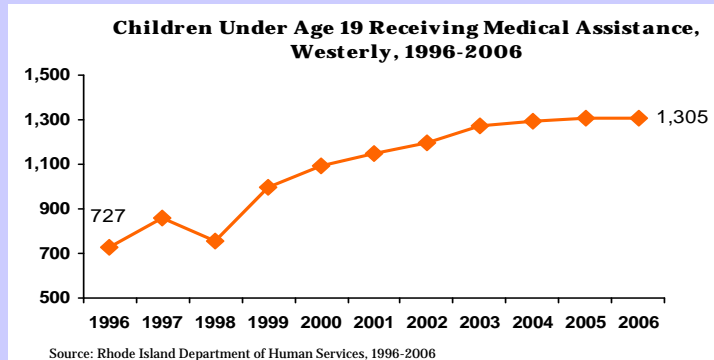


Source: Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 2006

- ❖ In the Fall of 2006, an average of 291 low-income children in Westerly participated in the school breakfast program each day out of 880 who were eligible for free or reduced-price breakfast. The participation rate in the program is similar to the state as a whole and higher than in Charho.
- ❖ Students who eat breakfast have significantly higher math and reading scores, fewer absences, improved attentiveness and lower incidences of social and behavioral problems.

Health

Children Receiving Medical Assistance

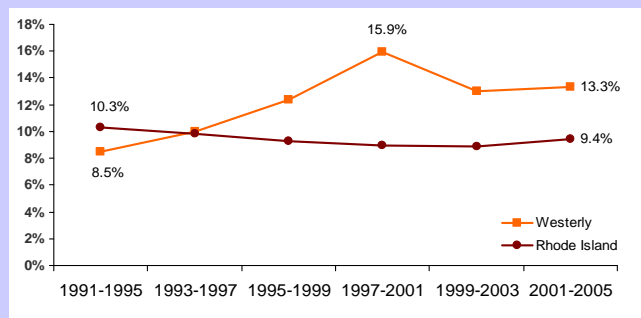


❖ In Rhode Island, the percentage of uninsured children in the last three years has increased, largely due to the decline in employer sponsored health insurance.

❖ Rhode Island ranks 10th in the country with 6.4% of Rhode Island's children under age 18 uninsured in 2006.

❖ In 2006, 1,167 children in Westerly received RItE Care assistance and 138 received medical assistance through SSI, adoption subsidy, foster care or Katie Becket provision.

Women with Delayed Prenatal Care



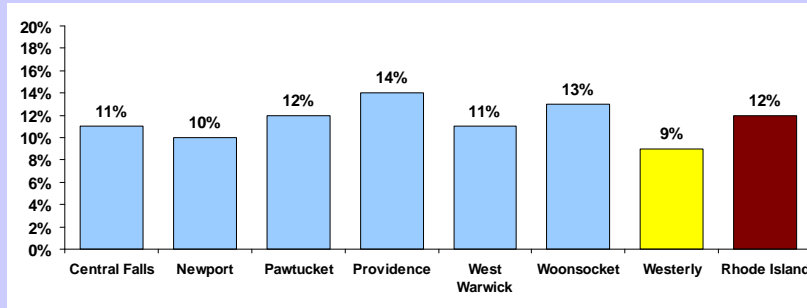
❖ Women receiving late or no prenatal care are at increased risk of poor birth outcomes, such as stillborns, low birth weight and infant mortality, but also including poverty and low maternal education.

❖ At 13.3%, the incidence of delayed prenatal care in Westerly is the 4th highest in the state.

❖ Women in Westerly are more than twice as likely to receive delayed prenatal care as women in the remainder of the state (6.7%).

Preterm Births

Preterm Births in Rhode Island and the Core Cities, 2001-2005

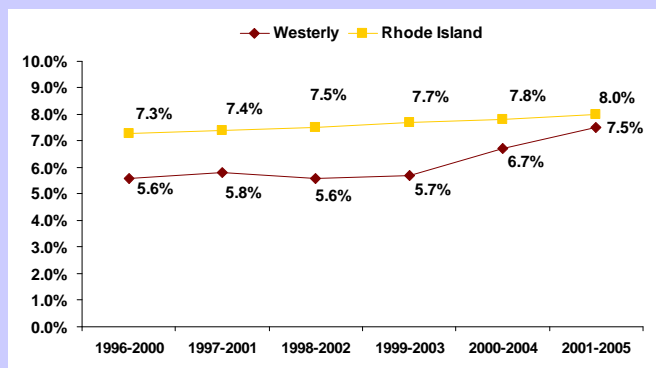


Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, 2001-2005.

- ❖ The rate of preterm births is increasing in the U.S. and in Rhode Island. The rise has been influenced by an increase in the rate of multiple births as well as an overall increase in preterm births.
- ❖ There were 1,349 births in Westerly between 2001-2005. Of these, 123 (9%) births were preterm. The preterm birth rate in neighboring towns, with the exception of Richmond (10%) is too small to calculate.

Low Birthweight Infants

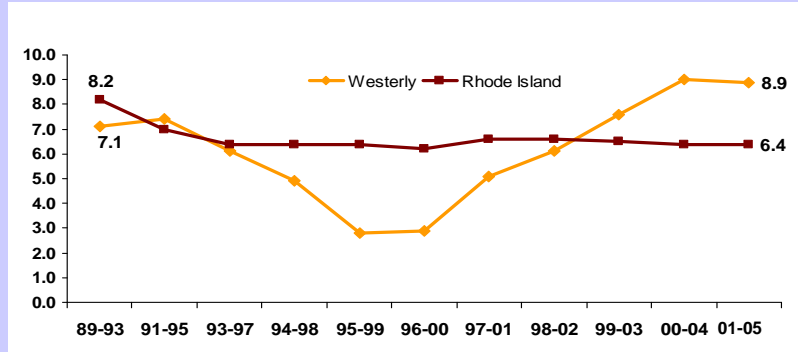
Percentage Low Birthweight, 1996-2005



- ❖ Between 1996-2000 and 2001-2005, the percentage of infants born low birthweight in Westerly increased 34%, from 5.6% to 7.5%.
- ❖ Between 2001 and 2005, Westerly's low birthweight rate increased to nearly the state rate of 8.0%.

Infant Mortality

Number of Infant Deaths 1989-2005

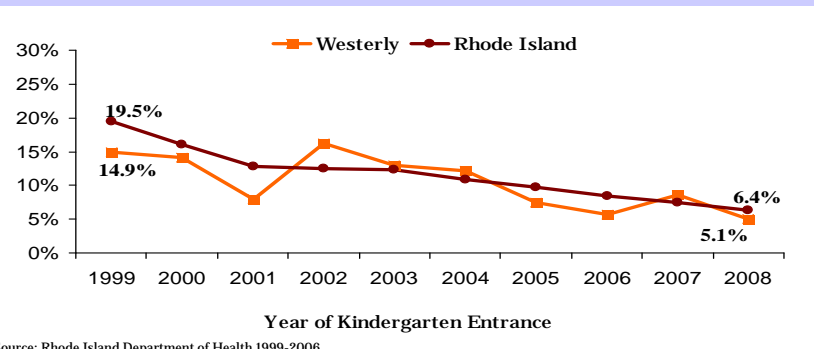


Source: Rhode Island Department of Health 1989-2005

- ❖ Communities with multiple problems of poverty, unemployment and illiteracy tend to have higher infant mortality rates than more advantages communities.
- ❖ The infant mortality rate in Westerly decreased from a high of 8.2 per 1,000 live births to 2.9, between 1989-2000 and increased to 8.9 between 2001-2005.
- ❖ Westerly is tied with Providence as having the highest infant mortality rate in the state.

Children with Elevated Lead Levels

Children with a history of screened blood levels ≥ 10 mcg/dL, 1999-2008

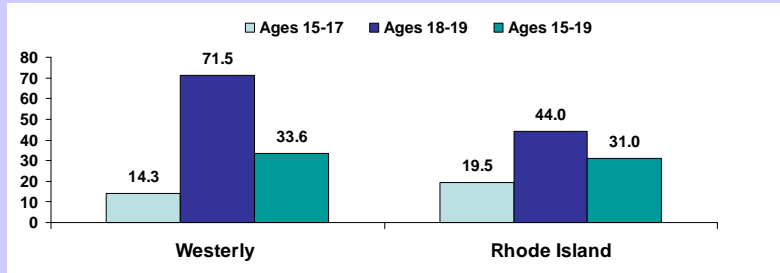


Source: Rhode Island Department of Health 1999-2006.

- ❖ Lead poisoning can cause irreversible damage including loss of intelligence, impaired cognitive performance and behavioral problems such as aggression and short life span.
- ❖ Throughout the 1990's the state saw dramatic overall decreases in the number of children entering kindergarten screening positive for elevated lead levels.
- ❖ In the most recent year of testing, 253 Westerly children were screened for lead, 13 (5.1%) screened positive and 8 (3.2%) confirmed positive for lead levels ≥ 10 mcg/dL.

Births to Teens

Births Rate per 1,000 girls ages 15-19

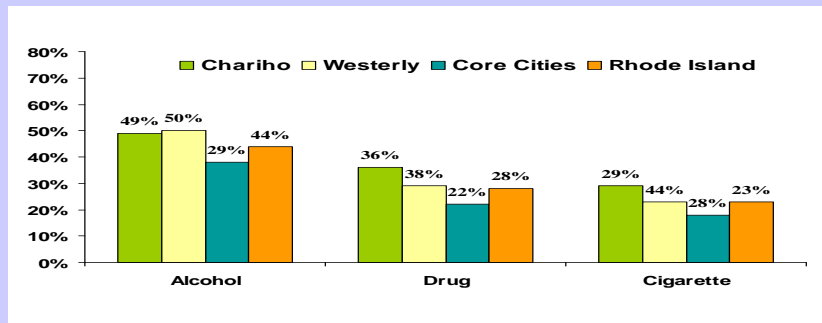


Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, 1999-1995 & 2001-2005

- ❖ The teen birth rate per 1,000 teen girls ages 15-19 is slightly higher in Westerly (33.6) than the state average (31.0). The teen birth rate for minor teen girls (ages 15-17) in Westerly (14.3) is lower than the state rate (19.5).
- ❖ The teen birth rate for teens ages 18-19 is significantly higher in Westerly (71.5) compared to the state rate (44.0).
- ❖ Compared to neighboring towns in Washington county, the teen birth rate in Westerly is the highest. The distinction between communities is most clearly noted for older teens, ages 18-19.

Alcohol, Drug and Cigarette Use by Teens

High School, 2005-2006

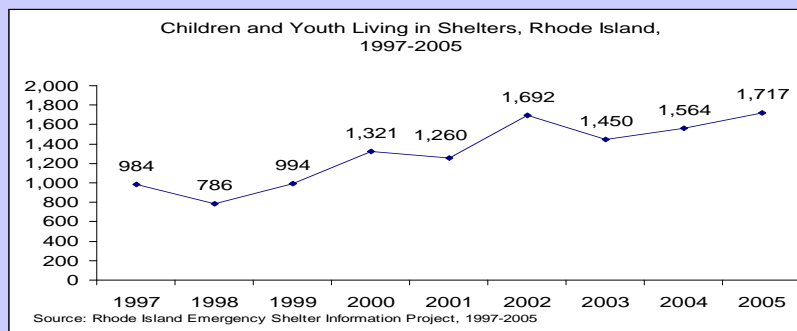


Source: Rhode Island SALT Survey reports, student reports of health risk practices by grade level, 2005-2006.

- ❖ In Westerly, 50% of high school students reported using alcohol in the previous month, compared to 44% of high school students statewide.
- ❖ In Westerly, nearly two nearly two in five (38%) of high school students reported using illegal drugs such as marijuana, inhalants, cocaine and methamphetamines, compared to 22% of students statewide.
- ❖ Rates of reported alcohol, drug and cigarette use by teens is higher in Westerly and Chariho, compared to the rest of the state. Students in suburban communities tended to report higher usage than those in the urban core.

Safety

Homeless Children and Homeless Youth



- ❖ Of the 6,408 Rhode Islanders who received shelter services in 2004-2005, 197 people claimed Newport as their city of last residence, an increase of 16% from 2003-2004 when 170 people reported Newport as their last city of residence.
- ❖ Nearly half (45%) of the 1,717 children receiving shelter in Rhode Island between July 1, 2004 and June 30, 2005, were under the age of 5.
- ❖ The two largest family shelters were unable to enter data in the HMIS system. RIESIP estimates that with those shelters added in, the total number of children would be between 1,750 and 1,800 children and youth who were homeless.

Juveniles in Family Court and the Training School

❖ During 2006 in Rhode Island, 5,579 youth were referred to Family Court for 9,254 wayward and delinquent offenses.

- *Property crimes (27%), status offenses (17%), and disorderly conduct (17%) accounted for over half of all the offenses.*
- *Violent crimes and simple assault accounted for 15% of the referrals.*

❖ In 2006, 1,056 juveniles ages 13-21 spent time at the Rhode Island Training School.

- *Of those with a reported address, 17 youths were from Westerly.*

Source: Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth, and Families, 2006

Children of Incarcerated Parents

2006

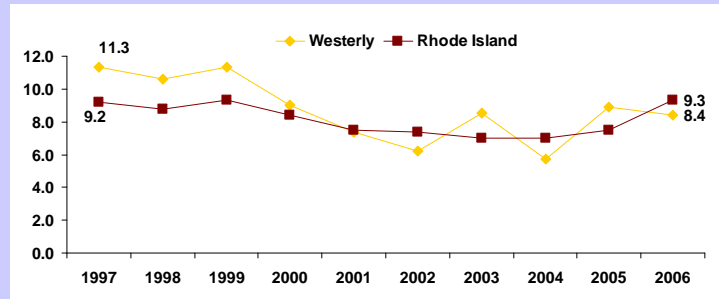
	# of Parents	# of Children Reported	Rate per 1,000 Children
Charlestown	3	3	1.8
Hopkinton	3	9	4.5
Richmond	4	17	8.4
Westerly	20	45	8.3
Core Cities	854	1,953	21.2
Remainder of State	415	851	5.5
Rhode Island	1,269	2,804	11.3

Source: Rhode Island Department of Corrections, 2006

- ❖ In 2006, 1,269 incarcerated parents in Rhode Island reported having 2,804 children. In Rhode Island, the rate of children reported by a parent serving a sentence at the Rhode Island Department of Corrections as of September 30, 2006 is 11.3 per 1,000 children.
- ❖ In 2006, 20 adults incarcerated in Rhode Island whose last known residence was Westerly reported having 45 children, a rate of 8.3 per 1,000 children, which is lower compared to the core cities and the state as a whole but higher than neighboring towns (except for Richmond) in Washington County and the remainder of the state.
- ❖ 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.

Child Abuse & Neglect

Indicated Investigations of Child Abuse and Neglect per 1,000 children, Westerly, 1997-2006



Source: Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, 1997-2006.

❖ In 2006 in Rhode Island, there were 2,792 (9.3 per 1,000 children) indicated investigations of child abuse and neglect.

❖ In 2006 in Westerly, there were 51 (8.4 per 1,000 children) indicated investigations of child abuse and neglect.

Risk Factors for Child Abuse and Neglect

- Inadequate income
- Lack of a job
- Emotional stress
- Isolation from family & friends
- Drug and/or alcohol abuse
- Mental illness
- Domestic Violence

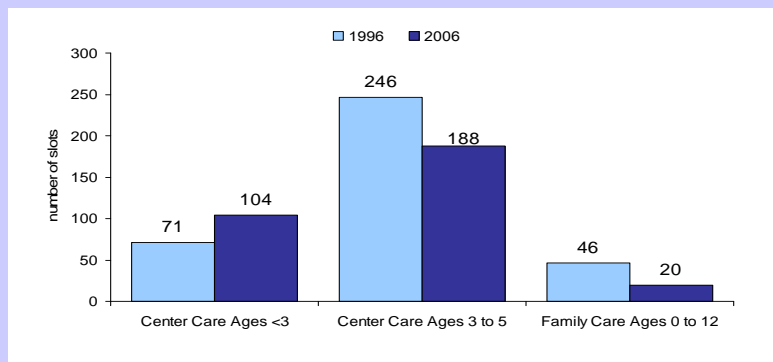
Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect

- Teaching parenting skills
- Treating alcohol and drug problems
- Providing mental health services
- Quality early care & education
- Vocational & educational training
- Home visits

Education

Early Care & Education

Child Care for Children Under Age 6, 2006



- ❖ In 2006 in Rhode Island, there were 26,243 slots for children under age 6 in licensed child care centers and certified family child care homes.
- ❖ In 2006 in Westerly, there were 464 slots for children under age 6 in licensed child care centers and certified family child care homes. Between 1996 and 2006 there was a net increase of 89 slots in child care for young children in Westerly.

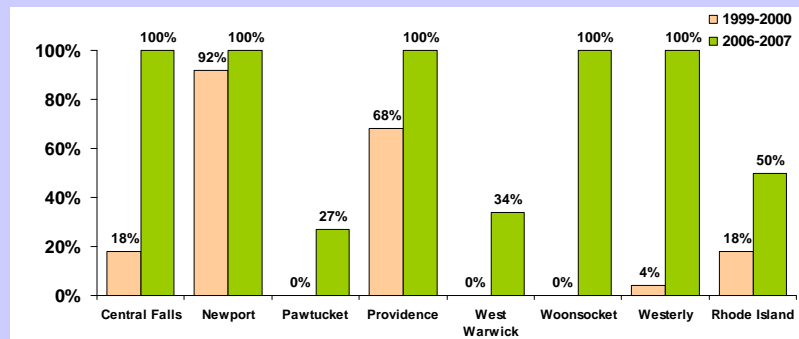
Children Enrolled in Early Head Start, 2006

- ❖ According to Census 2000, an estimated 77 children in Westerly under age 3 were eligible for enrollment in the Early Head Start program. *In 2006, of these children, zero were enrolled in Early Head Start.*
- ❖ In 2006, Early Head Start served 5% of the estimated 7,342 eligible children under age 3 in Rhode Island

Children Enrolled in Head Start, 2006

- ❖ According to Census 2000, an estimated 51 children in Westerly ages 3-4 were eligible for enrollment in the Head Start preschool program. *In 2006, 64 (100%) Westerly children were enrolled in Head Start.*
- ❖ In 2006, Head Start served 50% of the estimated 4,848 eligible children ages 3-4 in Rhode Island.

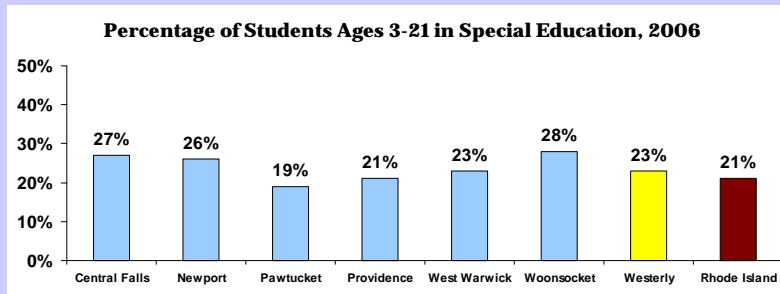
Children in Full-Day Kindergarten



Source: Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 1999-2000 & 2006-2007.

- ❖ In Rhode Island in 2006-2007, 50% (1,994) of children who attended kindergarten were in a full-day program.
- ❖ As of the 2006-2007 school year, 13 school districts offered universal access to full-day kindergarten classrooms. Another 7 school districts operated at least 1 full-day kindergarten classroom.
- ❖ The percentage of children participating in full-day kindergarten in the Westerly has increased to full capacity, from 4% in 1999-2000 to 100% in 2005-2006.

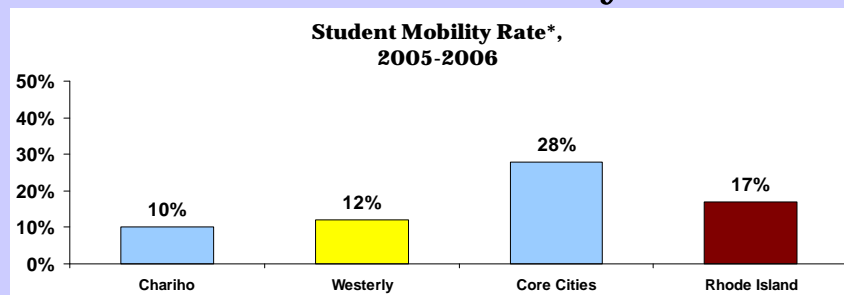
Children in Special Education



Source: Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 2005-2006.

- ❖ In Rhode Island, between the 1990-1991 and 2005-2006 school years, the percentage of students enrolled in special education increased by 49%.
- ❖ In the 2004-2005 (the most recent year national data were tabulated) school year, Rhode Island had the highest percentage (20%) of public school students identified as disabled and receiving special education services in the country.
- ❖ In the 2005-2006 school year, 23% of Westerly's children ages 3-21 were enrolled in special education, compared to 21% for the state as a whole.

Student Mobility



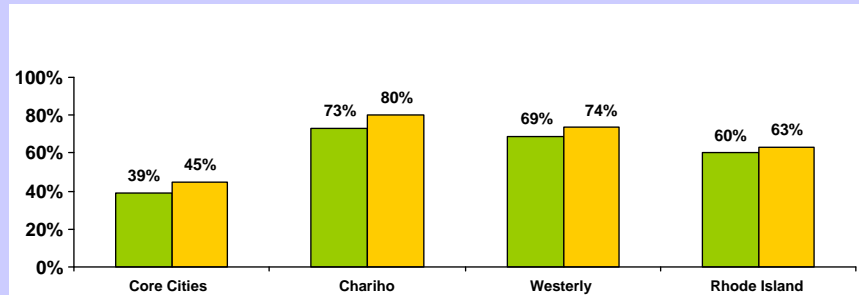
Source: Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 2005-2006

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ In Rhode Island, students who move are absent more often than students who do not move. 31% 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.
- ❖ The mobility rate in Westerly (12%) is similar to the neighboring district of Chariho (10%), but lower than the core city aggregate (28%), lower than the state (17%).

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

Fourth Grade Reading Skills

**Fourth-Grade Reading Proficiency
% At or Above the Proficiency Level
2005 & 2006**



Source: Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 2005 & 2006.

- ❖ Low reading ability in fourth grade has long-term implications for students.
- ❖ The fourth grade reading proficiency level in Westerly (74%) is higher than Rhode Island (63%) as a whole, but slightly lower than neighboring district of Chariho (80%).
- ❖ Westerly did see improvements between 2005 and 2006 in the percentage of fourth grade students proficient in reading, from 69% to 74%.

Eighth Grade New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP)

NECAP Reading and Math Proficiency

Fall 2005 & 2006 (test years)

	Reading		Mathematics	
	2005	2006	2005	2006
Central Falls	27%	27%	16%	13%
Newport	50%	46%	39%	51%
Pawtucket	44%	40%	37%	32%
Providence	25%	34%	20%	25%
West Warwick	56%	59%	51%	51%
Woonsocket	28%	31%	29%	19%
Chariho	58%	66%	55%	58%
Westerly	59%	73%	37%	61%
Rhode Island	56%	58%	47%	47%

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 2006 in Rhode Island, 182 schools (57%) were classified as high performing.
- ❖ In 2006, 76 schools (24%) were classified as moderately performing.
- ❖ In 2006, 61 schools (19%) were classified as making insufficient progress.

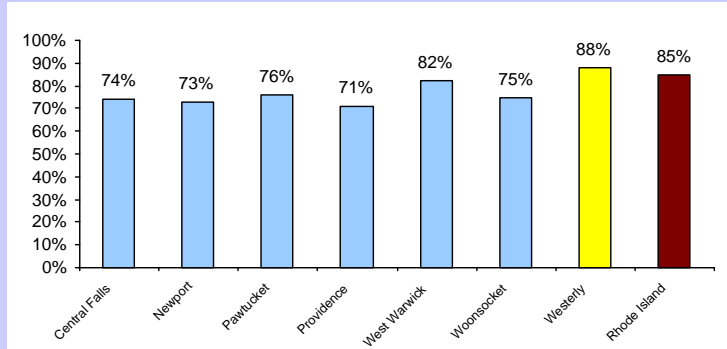
Westerly has 7 schools, all of which are high performing schools

School Suspensions, 2006

School District	# of Students Enrolled	Out-of-School Suspension	In-School Suspension	Alternative Program Placement	Total Disciplinary Actions	Actions per 100 Students
Westerly	3,486	338	0	0	338	10
Core Cities	50,206	15,853	8,223	245	24,321	48
Rhode Island	149,681	30,035	14,068	405	44,509	30

- ❖ Suspended students are more likely to have poor academic performance and to drop out of school.
- ❖ In 2005-2006 in Westerly, there were 10 disciplinary actions or every 100 students. This is significantly less than the state rate of 30 actions per every 100 students.

High School Graduation Rate, 2005



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

❖ In 2005, the Westerly high school graduation rate was 88%, a decrease from 2004 (91%). Westerly's graduation rate is higher than the state rate of 85%, but lower than Chariho's graduation rate of 91%.

❖ In 2004-2005, the high school attendance rate in Westerly was 93%, compared to 90% for the state as a whole.

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