

# *Woonsocket Data in Your Backyard*

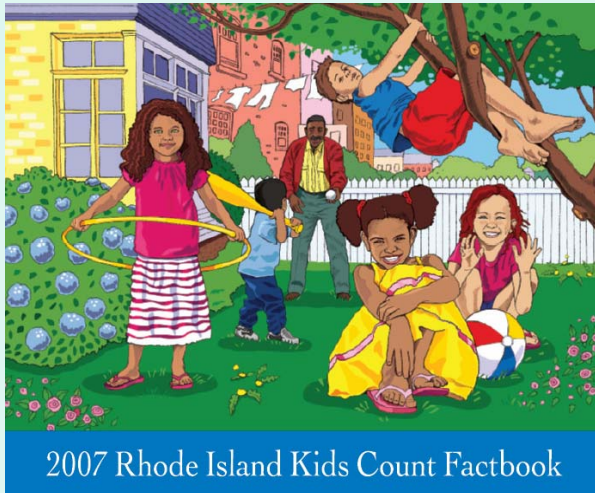
## *2007 Rhode Island Kids Count Factbook*



*Presented by Kat Keenan  
Policy Analyst, Rhode Island KIDS COUNT*

*October 23, 2007*

*Woonsocket, RI*



2007 Rhode Island Kids Count Factbook

The 2007 *Factbook* is the 13<sup>th</sup> 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*



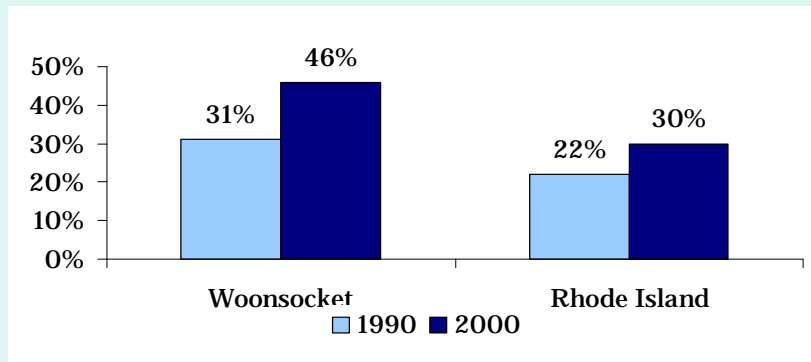
### Woonsocket Child Population, By Race and Ethnicity, 2000

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	80	(<1%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,155</b>	

❖ According to the 2006 American Community Survey, there were 234,711 children under age 18 in Rhode Island, representing 24% of the state's population.

## Children in Single-Parent Families

*Children Under Age 18 Living in Single-Parent Families*



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

- ❖ In 2000 in Woonsocket, 46% of children lived in single-parent families, the third highest rate in the state.
- ❖ In 2005 in Rhode Island, 29% of children lived in single-parent families. Rhode Island is currently ranked 46<sup>th</sup> out of 50 states (where 1<sup>st</sup> is the best) in the U.S. for children living in single-parent households.

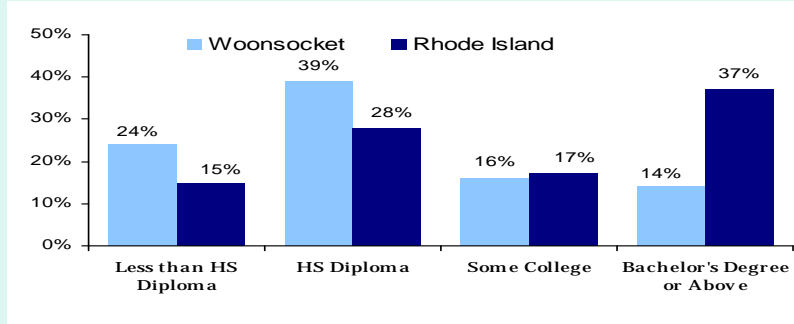
## Grandparents Caring for Children

- ❖ In 2005 in Rhode Island, there were 9,977 children living in households headed by a grandparent. An additional 5,232 children lived in households with other relatives.
- ❖ In 2005, 6% of all children residing in Rhode Island lived in households with relative caregivers.
- ❖ In Woonsocket in 2000, 680 grandparents lived in households with their grandchildren. Of these grandparents, 285 were financially responsible for their grandchildren.

Source: American Community Survey, 2005 and Census 2000

## Mother's Education Level

### Births by Education Level of Mother 2001-2005



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

❖ 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.

❖ In Woonsocket, 24% of new mothers between 2001 and 2005 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, 2006

	# of Births	# Born at Risk	# Born at Highest Risk
<b>Central Falls</b>	405	390	33
<b>Newport</b>	313	219	14
<b>Pawtucket</b>	1,029	855	60
<b>Providence</b>	2,8602	2,536	229
<b>West Warwick</b>	415	302	16
<b>Woonsocket</b>	637	540	53
<b>Core Cities</b>	5,659	4,842	405
<b>Remainder of State</b>	6,282	3,811	137
<b>Rhode Island</b>	11,945	8,653	542

Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, KIDSNET Database, 2006.

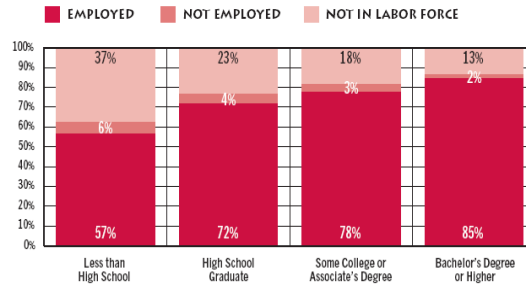
❖ There are three important social and economic risk factors present at birth that, when combined, strongly predict childhood poverty and poor education outcomes- *having a mother who is younger than 20, unmarried, and without a high school degree.*

❖ In 2006, there were 637 births in Woonsocket. Of these births, 540 (85%) were born at risk and 53 (8%) were born at highest risk.

❖ In 2006, 5% of babies were born to Rhode Island women under the age of 20, unmarried and had less than 12 years of education. In Woonsocket, 8% of babies were born at highest risk.

# Education Matters for Employment

EMPLOYMENT STATUS BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, RHODE ISLAND, 2006



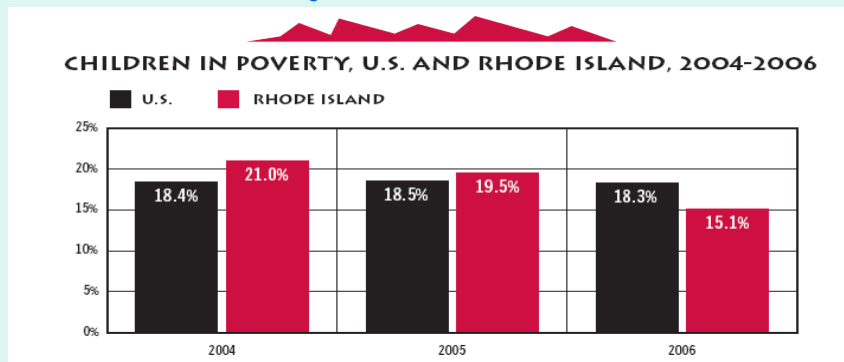
- ◆ In 2006 in Rhode Island, individuals with higher levels of education were more likely to be in the labor force and to be employed. Fifty-seven percent of individuals with education less than a high school diploma were employed, compared to 85% of those with a bachelor's degree or higher.
- ◆ For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

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

# Economic Well-Being



## Child Poverty in Rhode Island, 2006



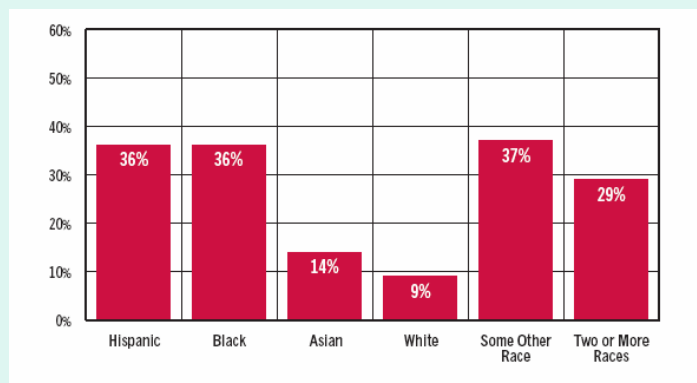
❖ According to ACS 2006, 15.1% (35,456) of Rhode Island's 234,711 children under age 18 lived below the federal poverty threshold. This is a significant decrease from 2004 when 21% (50,390) of Rhode Island children were living below the federal poverty threshold.

❖ 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

### Poverty as a Percentage of All Children of a Specified Race/Ethnicity



❖ 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 Woonsocket

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

	<50% FPL	<100%FPL	<200% FPL
<b>Central Falls</b>	1,146 (21.2%)	2,210 (40.9%)	3,875 (71.7%)
<b>Newport</b>	773 (14.9%)	1,267 (24.4%)	2,223 (42.8%)
<b>Pawtucket</b>	2,195 (12.2%)	4,542 (25.3%)	9,047 (50.4%)
<b>Providence</b>	8,846 (19.9%)	18,045 (40.5%)	29,796 (66.9%)
<b>West Warwick</b>	462 (7.0%)	1,186 (18.1%)	2,655 (40.5%)
<b>Woonsocket</b>	2,061 (18.8%)	3,494 (31.8%)	5,961 (54.3%)
<b>Rhode Island</b>	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

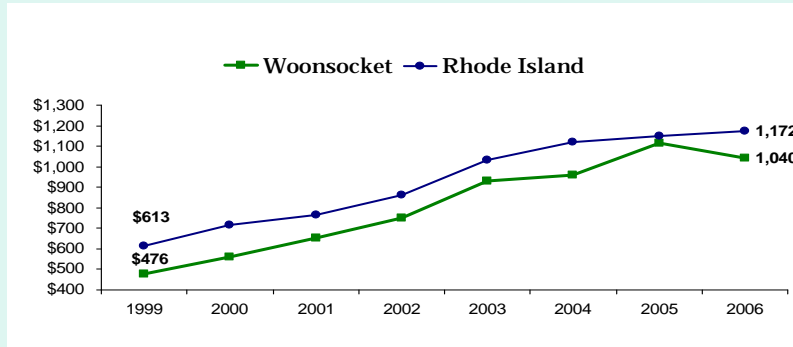
### Children under Age 6 in Low-Income Families, 2000:

	<50% FPL	<100%FPL	<200% FPL
<b>Central Falls</b>	357 (20.6%)	740 (42.7%)	1,313 (75.7%)
<b>Newport</b>	413 (22.6%)	628 (34.3%)	909 (49.7%)
<b>Pawtucket</b>	824 (14.1%)	1,711 (29.2%)	3,132 (53.5%)
<b>Providence</b>	3,252 (22.5%)	6,137 (42.5%)	10,010 (69.3%)
<b>West Warwick</b>	239 (10.6%)	606 (26.8%)	1,209 (53.4%)
<b>Woonsocket</b>	772 (19.9%)	1,361 (35.0%)	2,244 (57.8%)
<b>Rhode Island</b>	7,230 (9.5%)	14,548 (19.2%)	28,282 (37.3%)

❖ 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.

# Cost of Rent

## Average Cost of a Two Bedroom Apartment 1999-2006



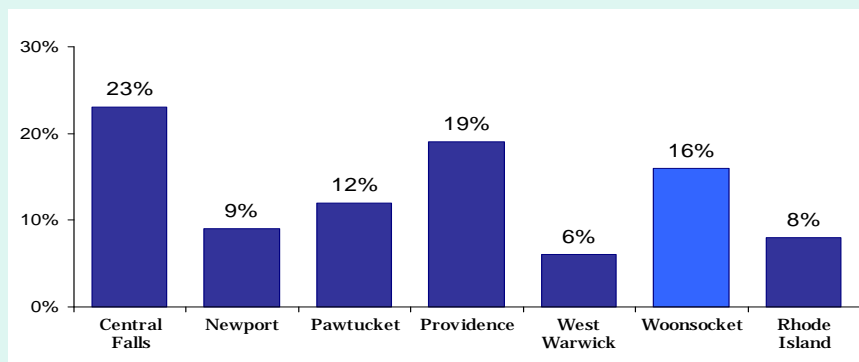
Source: Rhode Island Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation, 1998 – 2006.

❖ 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 75% of their household income to the cost of rent.

❖ To afford the average rent (\$1,172) in Rhode Island without a cost burden, a worker would need to earn \$20.28 per hour for forty hours a week, almost three times the state's minimum wage in 2006 of \$7.10 per hour.

# Family Independence Program

## Children Enrolled in the Family Independence Program (FIP), Core Cities and Rhode Island, 2006



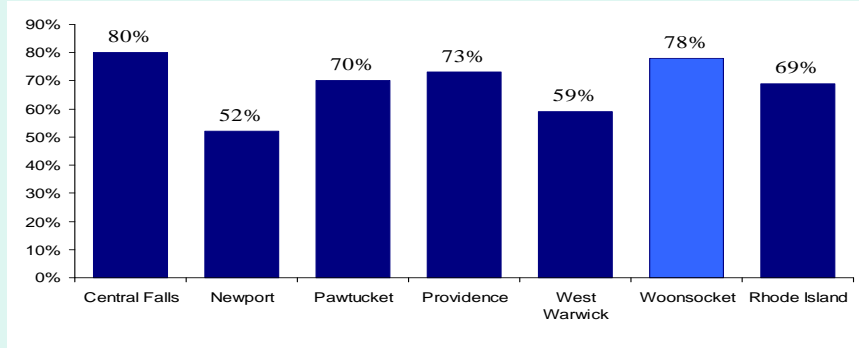
Source: Rhode Island Department of Human Services, 2006 and U.S. Census 2000.

❖ As of December 1, 2006, 980 families with 1,827 children were enrolled in FIP in Woonsocket. This is 16% of all children in Woonsocket.

❖ Nearly three-quarters (73%) of all FIP beneficiaries in the state 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

**% of Income Eligible Children Under Age 18 Participating in the Food Stamp Program**



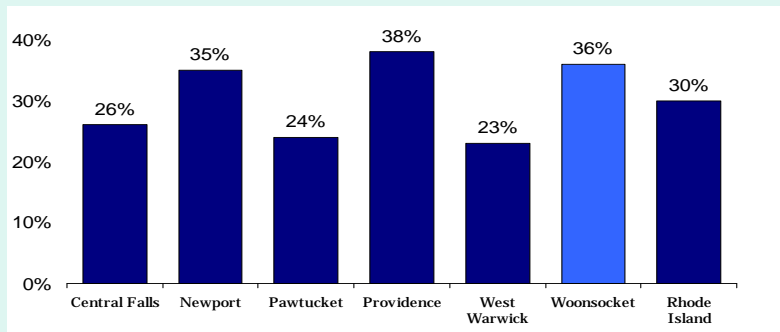
Source: Rhode Island Department of Human Services, InRhodes Database, 2005.

❖ 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.

❖ In Woonsocket in 2006, 78% of children income-eligible for Food Stamps participated in the program compared to 69% in 2005.

## School Breakfast Program

*% of Eligible Low-Income Children Participating in School Breakfast, 2006*



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

❖ Woonsocket is one of five districts that offer universal school breakfast throughout the district. East Providence began piloting the program in October 2006. The percentage of low-income students participating in the school breakfast program in school offering universal school breakfast was 33%, compared with 22% of students participating in the program in the remainder of the state.

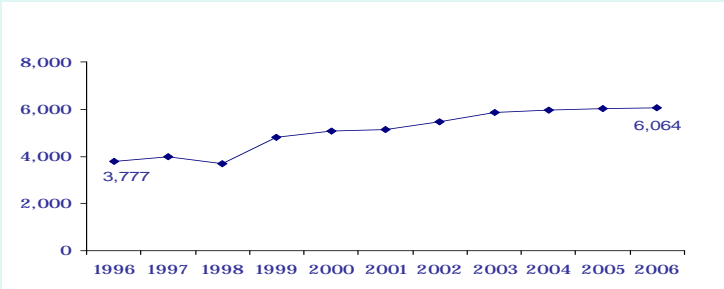
❖ In the Fall of 2006, an average of 1,517 low-income children in Woonsocket participated in the school breakfast program each day out of 4,185, who were eligible for free or reduced-price breakfast.

# Health



## Medical Assistance in Rhode Island

*Children Under Age 18 Receiving Medical Assistance,  
Woonsocket, 1996-2006*

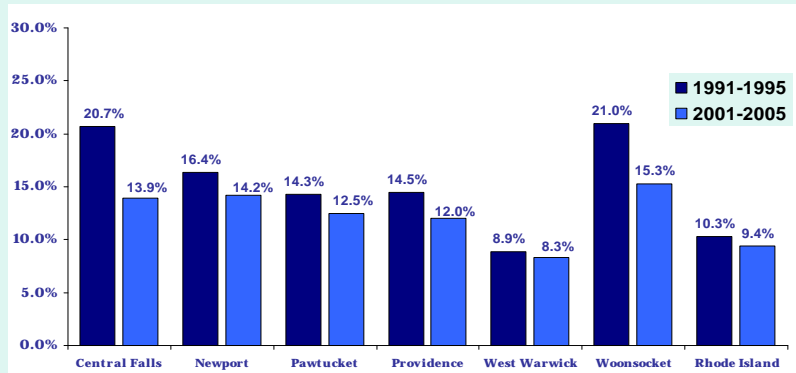


Source: Rhode Island Department of Human Services, 1996-2006

- ❖ As of December 2006, 6,064 children living in Woonsocket were receiving Medical Assistance, with 2,123 of these children enrolled in RIte Care.
- ❖ Sixty-four percent (58,504) of the 90,731 children receiving Medical Assistance reside in one of the six core cities.
- ❖ As of 2006, 6.4% of Rhode Island's children under age 18 were uninsured, ranking Rhode Island with the 10th lowest rate of uninsured children in the country. In the past three years there has been an increase in the percent of uninsured children, driven largely by the decline in employer sponsored health insurance.

## Women with Delayed Prenatal Care

*Women with Late or No Prenatal Care, 1991-1995 & 2001-2005*



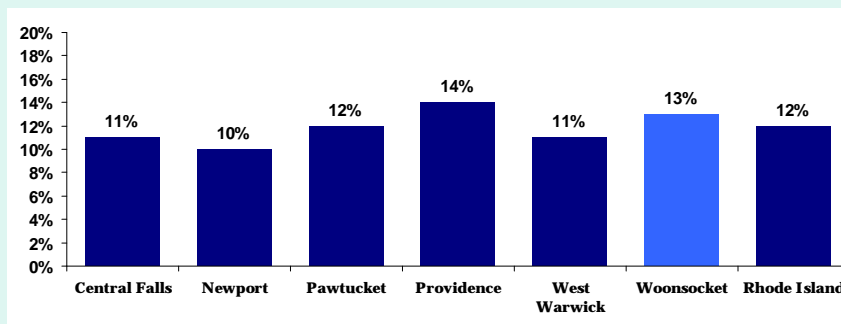
Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, 1991-2005

❖ Between 2001 and 2005, Woonsocket had 3,184 births. Of these births, 486 (15.3%) received delayed prenatal care. This is a decrease from a decade ago when 21.0% of births received delayed prenatal care.

❖ Woonsocket has the highest rate of delayed prenatal care in the state between 2001 and 2005, despite a nearly 27% decrease from 1991-1995.

## Preterm Births

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



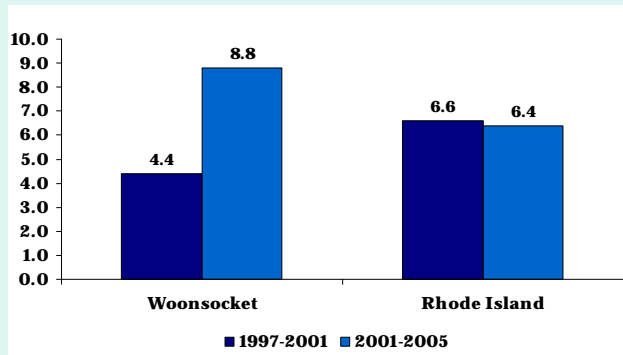
Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, 2001-2005.

❖ Between 2001-2005 in Woonsocket, there were 3,184 births. Of these, 399 (13%) births were preterm.

❖ 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.

# Infant Mortality

Number of Infant Deaths 1997-2005



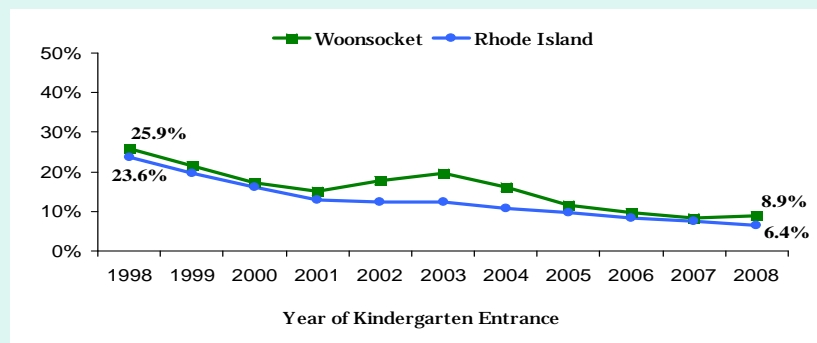
Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Division of Family Health, Maternal and Child Health Database.

❖ 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 2001-2005, the Woonsocket infant mortality rate doubled, from 4.4 deaths per 1,000 births to 8.8 per 1,000 births.

# Children with Elevated Lead Levels

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



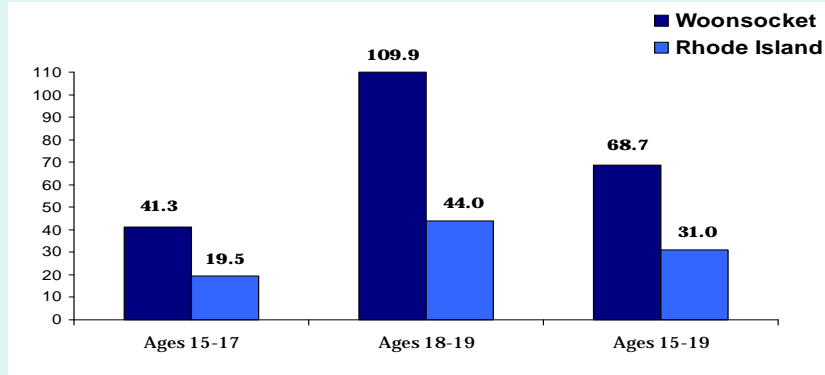
Source: Rhode Island Department of Health 1998-2006.

❖ Despite declines in lead poisoning rates, kindergarten children living in core cities are nearly two times as likely to have a history of elevated blood lead levels (8%) as those in the remainder of the state (4.6%).

❖ In the most recent year of testing, 687 Woonsocket children were screened for lead, 61 (8.9%) screened positive and 40 (5.8%) confirmed positive for lead levels  $\geq 10$ mcg/dL.

# Births to Teens

*Births Rate per 1,000 girls ages 15-19*



Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, 2001-2005

➤ Between 2001-2005, there were 485 births to teen girls ages 15 to 19 in Woonsocket, with 175 of these births occurring to minor teens (ages 15-17).

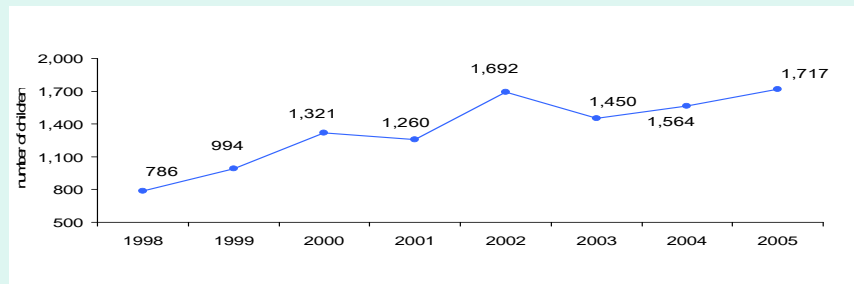
➤ Woonsocket had the second highest teen birth rate in the state for teens ages 15-19. The teen birth rate in Woonsocket (68.7 births per 1,000 girls ages 15-19) is more than double the state rate of 31 births per 1,000 girls ages 15-19.

# Safety



## Homeless Children & Youth

Children and Youth Living in Shelters, RI, 1998-2005



Source: Rhode Island Emergency Shelter Information Project 1998-2006

- ❖ Of the 6,408 Rhode Islanders who received shelter services in 2004-2005, 572 people claimed Woonsocket as their city of last residence, an increase of 37% from 2003-2004.
- ❖ 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.*
- ❖ In 2006, 1,056 juveniles ages 13-21 spent time at the Rhode Island Training School. Youth over the age of 18 account for 30% of the total population that passed through the Training School in 2006.
  - ❖ *48% of adjudicated youth at the Training School had at some point in their childhood been victims of documented child abuse or neglect.*
  - ❖ *Of those with a reported address, 73 youth were from Woonsocket, the third highest rate in the state.*

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

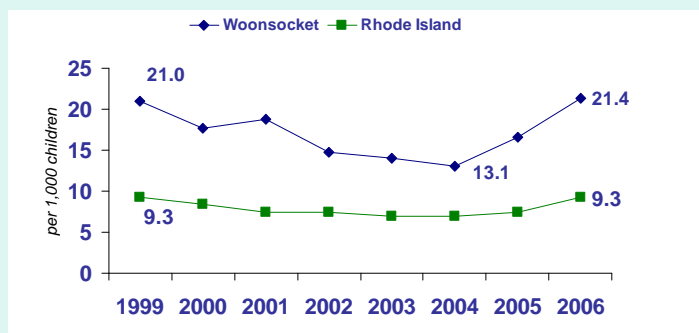
## Children of Incarcerated Parents

- ❖ In 2006, 1,269 incarcerated parents in Rhode Island reported having 2,804 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 2006, 93 adults incarcerated from Woonsocket reported having 212 children, a rate of 19 per 1,000 children, compared to 11.3 per 1,000 in the state.

Source: Rhode Island Department of Corrections, 2006.

## Child Abuse & Neglect

*Indicated Investigations of Child Abuse and Neglect per 1,000 children, Woonsocket, 1999-2006*

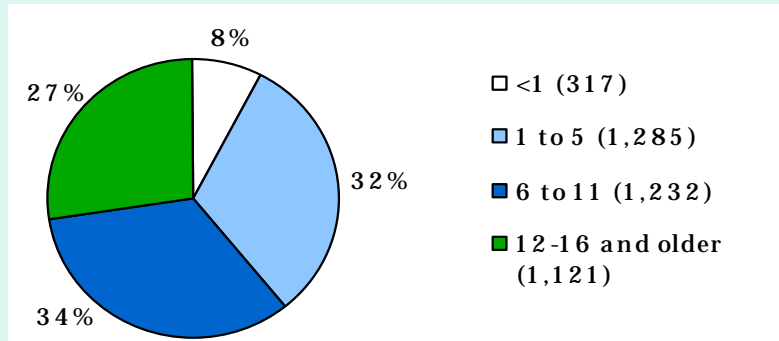


Source: Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, (RICHIST), 2006.

❖ Woonsocket had 274 indicated investigations of child abuse and neglect in 2006, an increase from 212 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 2006 to 21.4 per 1,000 children and is the second highest in the state, behind Central Falls (23.4).

❖ Sixty-one percent of indicated investigations of child abuse and neglect in 2006 occurred in one of the six core cities, even though only 39% of the state's population under 21 lives in those communities.

## Rhode Island Child Abuse and Neglect, 2006



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

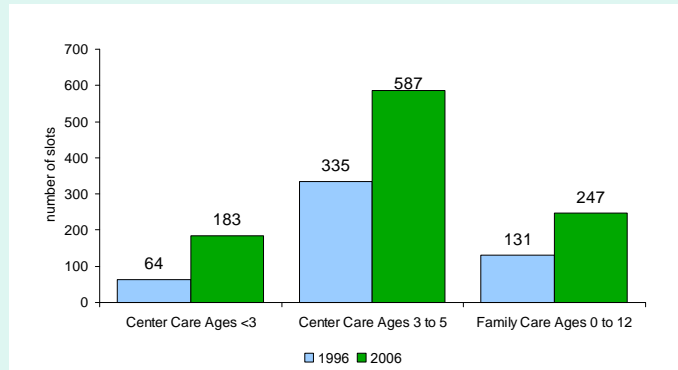
❖ In 2006 in Rhode Island, 40% of victims were younger than 6 years old, accounting for approximately 2 out of 5 incidents.

## Education



# Early Care & Education

## Child Care for Children Under Age 6, 2006



Source: U.S Census, 2000.

- 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.
- Between 1996 and 2006 there was a net increase of 489 slots in child care for young children in Woonsocket, from 530 to 1,017.

## Children Enrolled in Early Head Start, 2006

❖ In 2006 in Woonsocket, 733 children ages under age 3 were eligible for enrollment in the Early Head Start program. In 2006, none of these children were enrolled in Early Head Start.

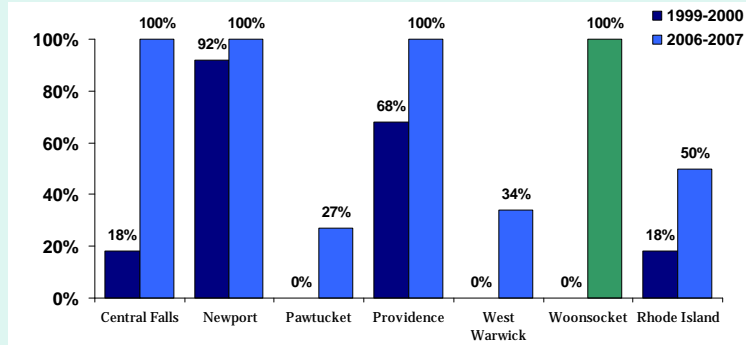
❖ In 2006, Early Head Start served 5% of the estimated 7,342 eligible children under age 3 in Rhode Island.

## Children Enrolled in Head Start, 2006

➤ In 2006 in Woonsocket, 443 children ages 3-4 were eligible for enrollment in the Head Start preschool program. In 2006, 228 (51%) of these 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

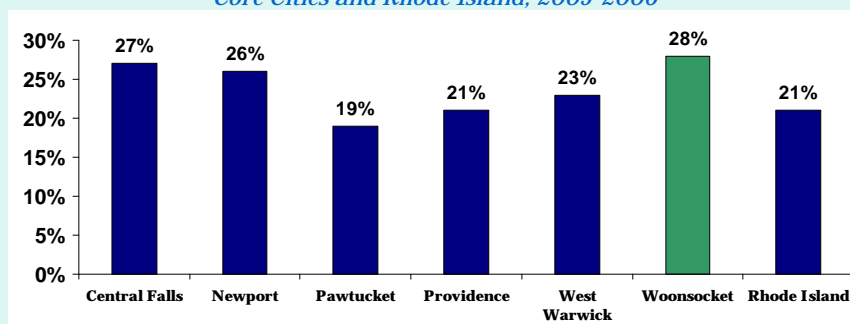


Source: Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 1999-2000 & 2006-2007.

- ❖ In Rhode Island in 2006-2007, 1,994 children who attended kindergarten were in a full-day program. This is half of all children enrolled in kindergarten.
- ❖ As of the 2006-2007 school year, 13 school districts offered universal access to full-day kindergarten classrooms, including Woonsocket. Another 7 school districts operated at least 1 full-day kindergarten classroom.
- ❖ The percentage of children participating in full-day kindergarten in the core cities has more than doubled, from 40% in 1999-2000 to 82% in 2005-2006.

## Children in Special Education

*Percent of Students, Ages 3-21, in Special Education  
Core Cities and Rhode Island, 2005-2006*

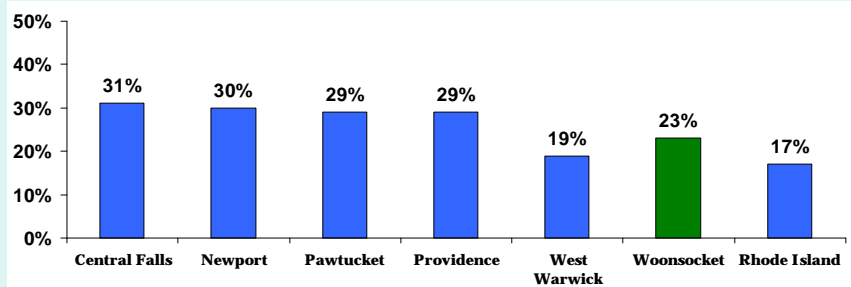


Source: Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 2005-2006.

- ❖ In the 2005-2006 school year, 28% of Woonsocket's children ages 3-21 were enrolled in special education, compared to 21% for the state as a whole.
- ❖ 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.

# Student Mobility

Core Cities and Rhode Island, 2005-2006

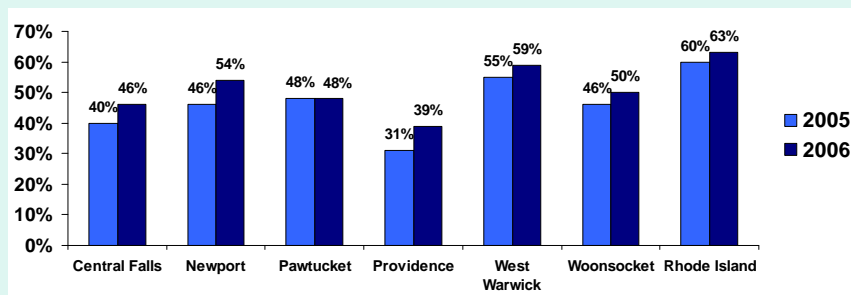


Source: Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 2005-2006

- ❖ The core city aggregate mobility rate (28%) is more than twice that of the remainder of cities and towns (11%) and higher than the state rate (17%).
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ 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.

# Fourth Grade Reading Skills

Fourth-Grade Reading Proficiency  
% At or Above the Proficiency Level  
Core Cities and Rhode Island, 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.
- ❖ Out of all cities and towns in Rhode Island, Woonsocket has the 4th lowest fourth grade proficiency level.
- ❖ Woonsocket has the 3rd highest proficiency level of the core cities but

## Eighth Grade New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP)

NECAP Eighth Grade Reading and Math Proficiency  
Fall 2005 & 2006 (test years)

	<u>Reading</u>		<u>Mathematics</u>	
	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
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%
<b>Woonsocket</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>19%</b>
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.

Woonsocket has three elementary schools, one high school, and one middle school that are making insufficient progress, and seven elementary schools that are moderately performing with caution. Woonsocket does not have any schools that are high performing.

## School Suspensions, 2005-2006

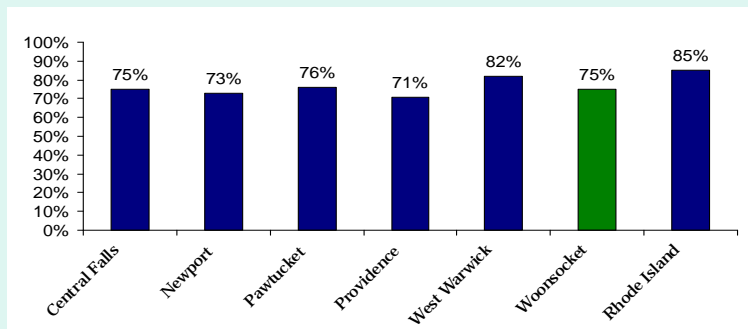
School District	# of Students Enrolled	Out-of-School Suspension	In-School Suspension	Alternative Program Placement	Total Disciplinary Actions	Actions per 100 Students
Woonsocket	6,363	2,492	2,407	245	5,144	81
Core Cities	50,206	15,853	8,223	245	24,321	48
Rhode Island	149,681	30,035	14,068	405	44,509	30

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

❖Low-income and minority students are at increased risk for suspension. In Rhode Island in 2005-2006, 34% of disciplinary actions were to students in the core cities.

❖In Woonsocket in 2005-2006, there were 81 disciplinary actions for every 100 students. This is more than double the state rate of 30 actions per every 100 students and was the highest rate in the state.

## High School Graduation Rate, 2006



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

❖In 2006, Woonsocket's high school graduation rate was 75%, an increase from 2005. Woonsocket's graduation rate is lower than the state rate of 85%.

❖In 2005-2006, the high school attendance rate in Woonsocket was 87%, compared to 90% for the state as a whole.



**Kat Keenan**  
**Policy Analyst**  
**Rhode Island KIDS COUNT**  
**One Union Station**  
**Providence, RI 02903**  
**[kkeenan@rikidscount.org](mailto:kkeenan@rikidscount.org)**  
**(401) 351-9400 voice**  
**(401) 351-1758 fax**  
**[www.rikidscount.org](http://www.rikidscount.org)**