

Woonsocket Data in Your Backyard

Findings From the *2010 Rhode Island Kids Count Factbook*



Presented by Stephanie Geller

Rhode Island KIDS COUNT

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Woonsocket, Rhode Island



Special Thanks

Special thanks to
Connecting for Children & Families
for hosting today's presentation

2010 Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Factbook

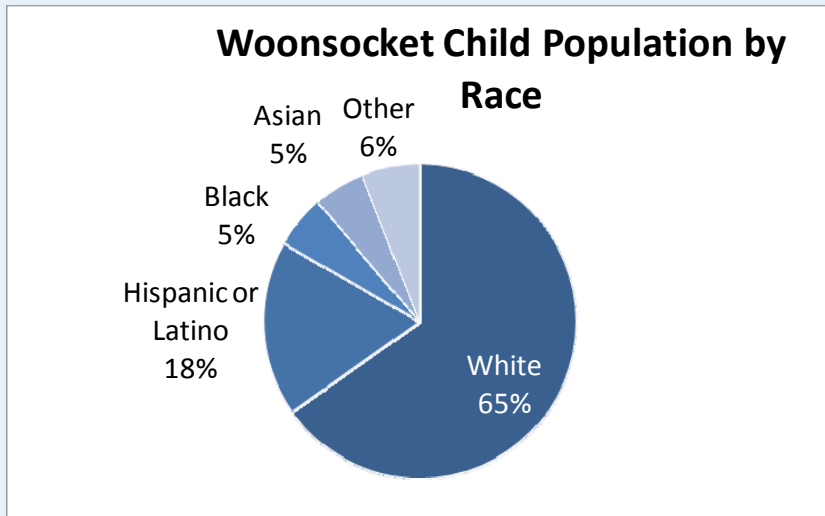


The 2010 Factbook is the 16th annual publication. The 2010 Factbook contains 67 indicators of child well-being, including 5 new indicators on youth and education. Most indicators include city and town level information.

Family and Community



Woonsocket's Child Population, By Race & Ethnicity, 2000

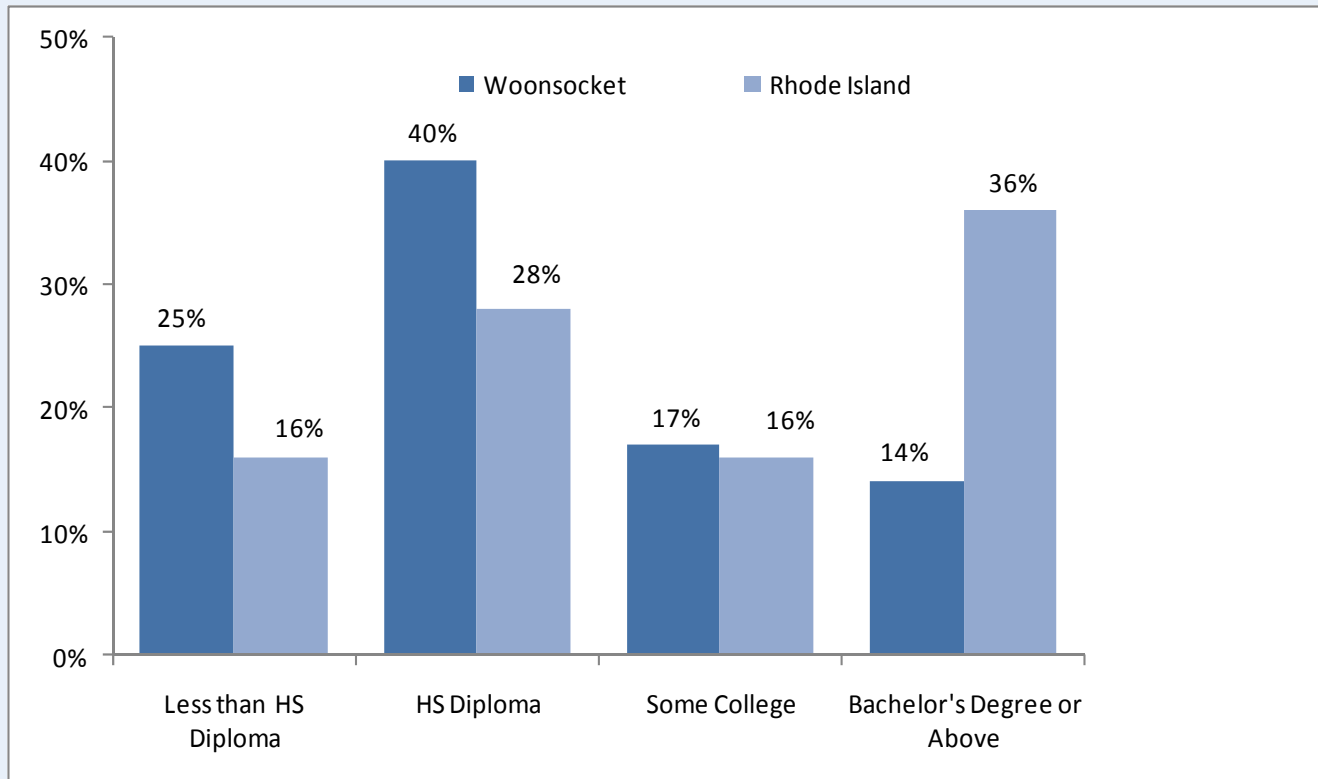


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

Population Under 18 Years of Age	
Hispanic or Latino	2,024
White, non-Hispanic	7,272
Black	606
Asian	591
Two or More Races	582
Other	80
Total	11,155

❖ According to the American Community Survey, Woonsocket's total child population between 2006 and 2008 was 10,309.

Mother's Education Level, 2004-2008



Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Division of Family Health, Maternal and Child Health Database, 2004-2008.

- ❖ Research shows strong links between parental education levels and a child's school readiness, health, and the level of education that the child is likely to achieve.
- ❖ In Woonsocket, 25% of new mothers had less than a high school diploma, significantly higher than the state rate of 16%. The proportion of new mothers with a bachelor's degree or above is smaller in Woonsocket (14%) than in the state as a whole (36%).



Infants Born at Highest Risk

Mother:

- Under Age 20
- Unmarried
- Without High School Degree



Child:

- More likely to grow up in poverty
- More likely to suffer from abuse or neglect
- Less likely to be ready for school at kindergarten entry
- Less likely to perform well in school
- Less likely to complete high school

❖ In 2009, 578 (5%) Rhode Island babies were born with all three risk factors, 63 of whom were born to mothers living in Woonsocket.

❖ 10% of all babies born in 2009 to mothers living in Woonsocket were born at highest risk (with all three risk factors). The percentage of infants born at risk in Woonsocket increased between 2008 and 2009, and only Central Falls has as high a percentage.

❖ High-quality, evidence-based programs (e.g., the Nurse-Family Partnership and Early Head Start) can help mitigate the risks faced by these children.

Economic Well-Being





Child Poverty

- ❖ The **poverty level** in 2009 was \$17,285 for a family of three with two children and \$21,756 for a family of four with two children.
- ❖ The **extreme poverty level** in 2009 was \$8,643 for a family of three with two children and \$10,878 for a family of four with two children.
- ❖ The Poverty Institute's ***2008 Rhode Island Standard of Need*** states that a single parent with two children who has an income of \$30,800 a year (175% of the federal poverty level) and subsidized child care and health care (Rite Care) would still be \$48 short of paying for basic needs each month.

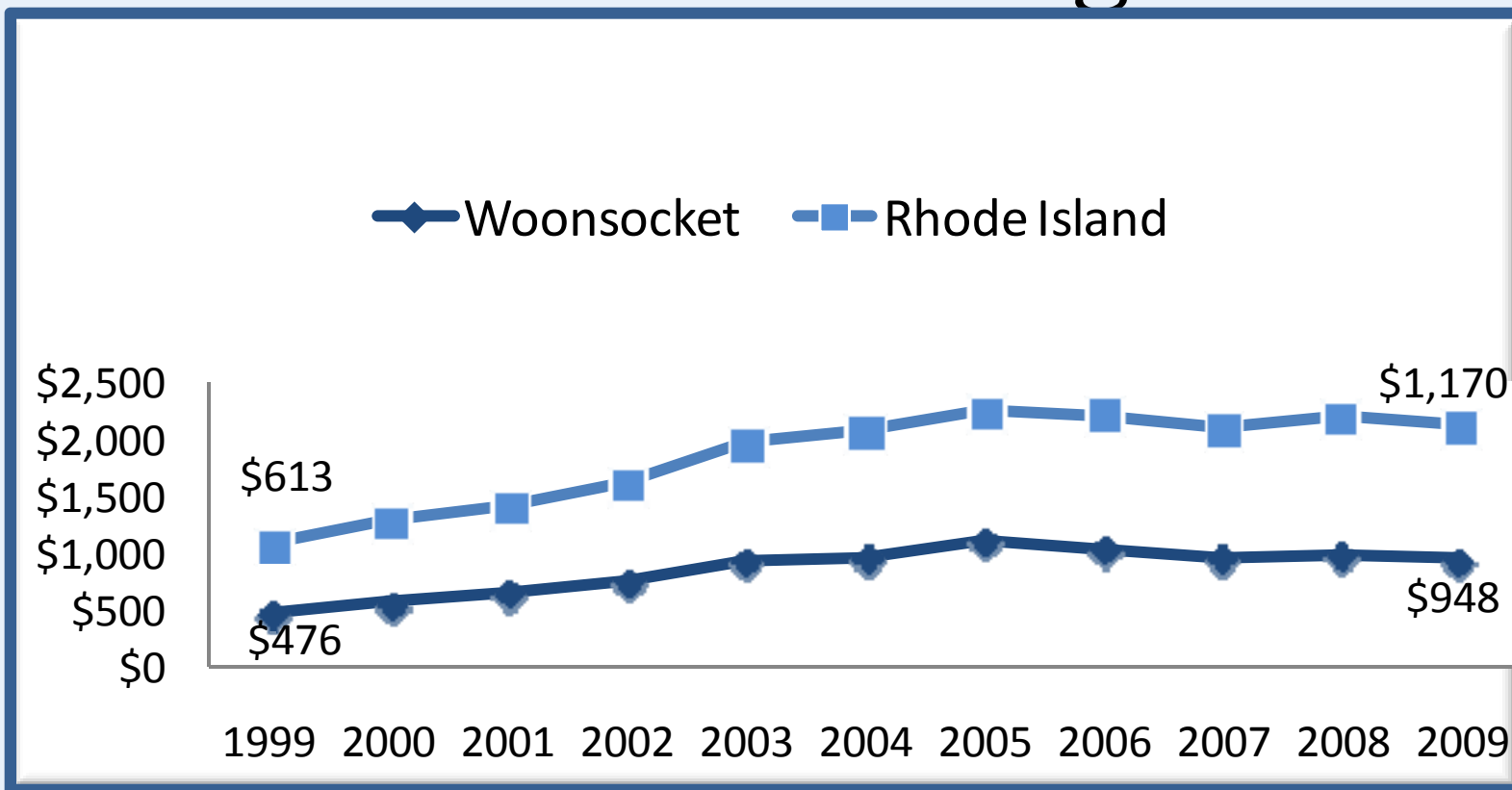
Children in Poverty, 2000

	<50% FPL	<100% FPL	<200% FPL
Central Falls	1,146 (21.2%)	2,210 (40.9%)	3,875 (71.7%)
Newport	773 (14.9%)	1,267 (24.4%)	2,223 (42.8%)
Pawtucket	2,195 (12.2%)	4,542 (25.3%)	9,047 (50.4%)
Providence	8,846 (19.9%)	18,045 (40.5%)	29,796 (66.9%)
West Warwick	462 (7%)	1,186 (18.1%)	2,655 (40.5%)
Woonsocket	2,061 (18.8%)	3,494 (31.8%)	5,961 (54.3%)
Rhode Island	19,773 (8.1%)	41,162 (16.9%)	83,420 (34.2%)

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

❖ According to the American Community Survey, between 2006 and 2008, 28.8% of the 2,948 children in Woonsocket lived in families with incomes below the federal poverty level.

Cost of Housing



Source: Rhode Island Housing Rent Survey, 2000-2009.

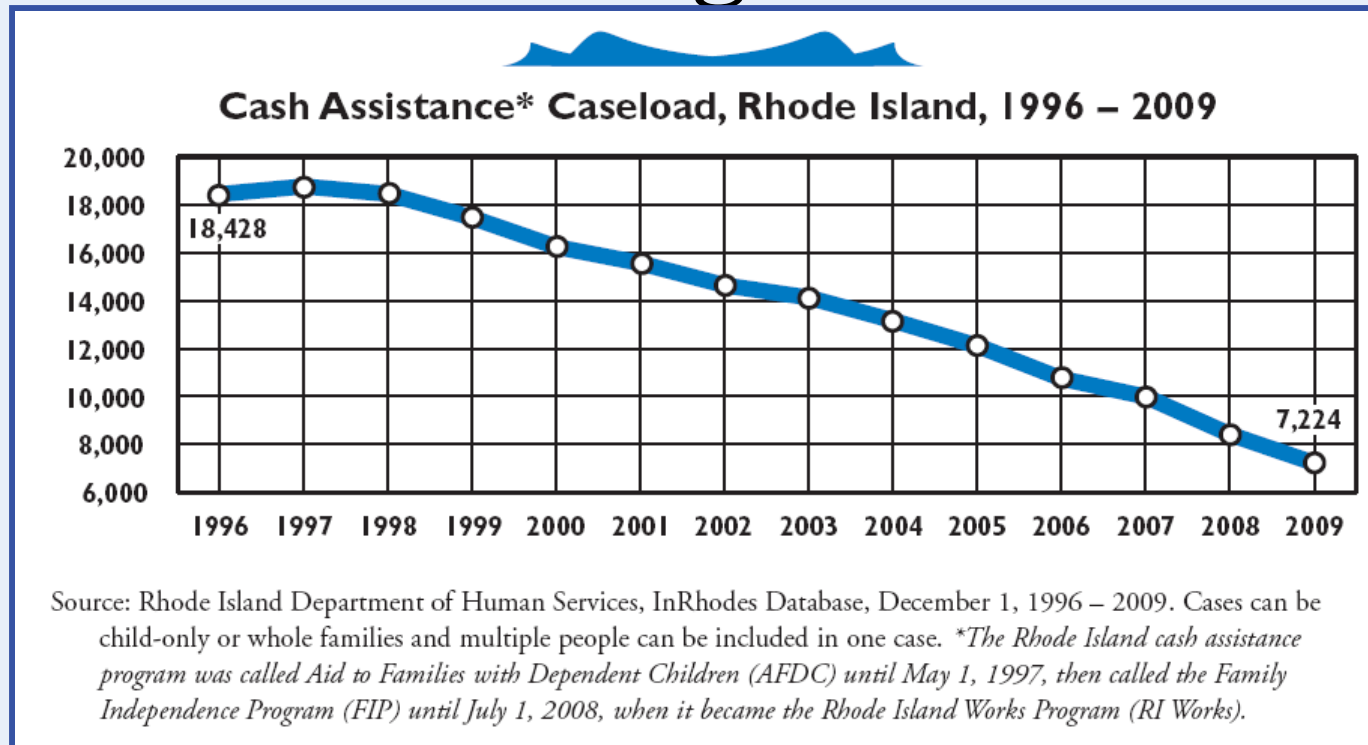
- ❖ To afford the average rent in Rhode Island of \$1,170 without a cost burden, a worker would need to earn \$22.50 per hour for 40 hours a week. This is more than 3 times the state's minimum wage of \$7.40 per hour.
- ❖ In 2009, the average cost of a 2-BR apartment in Woonsocket was **\$948**. A family of three living at the poverty level in Woonsocket would have to devote 62% of their household income to rent. Housing is considered to be affordable if it consumes 30% or less of a family's household income.



Homeless Children & Youth

- ❖ In 2009, 1,676 children under age 18 received emergency housing in a homeless shelter or a domestic violence shelter in RI.
 - Woonsocket was the last permanent residence for 9% (151) of these children.
- ❖ During the 2008-2009 school year, Rhode Island public school personnel identified 1,099 children as homeless.
 - Woonsocket Public School personnel identified 110 children as homeless.

Families Receiving Cash Assistance



- ❖ From 1996 to 2009, there was a 61% decline in Rhode Island's cash assistance caseload.
- ❖ In December 2009, 10% (1,162) of children in Woonsocket were receiving cash assistance, down from 17% (1,904) in 2005.
- ❖ More than two-thirds (67%) of RI Works beneficiaries are children under age 18. More than half (54%) of children enrolled in RI Works are under age 6.
- ❖ In SFY 2010, the state budget included no general revenue spending for cash assistance.

Children Receiving SNAP Benefits

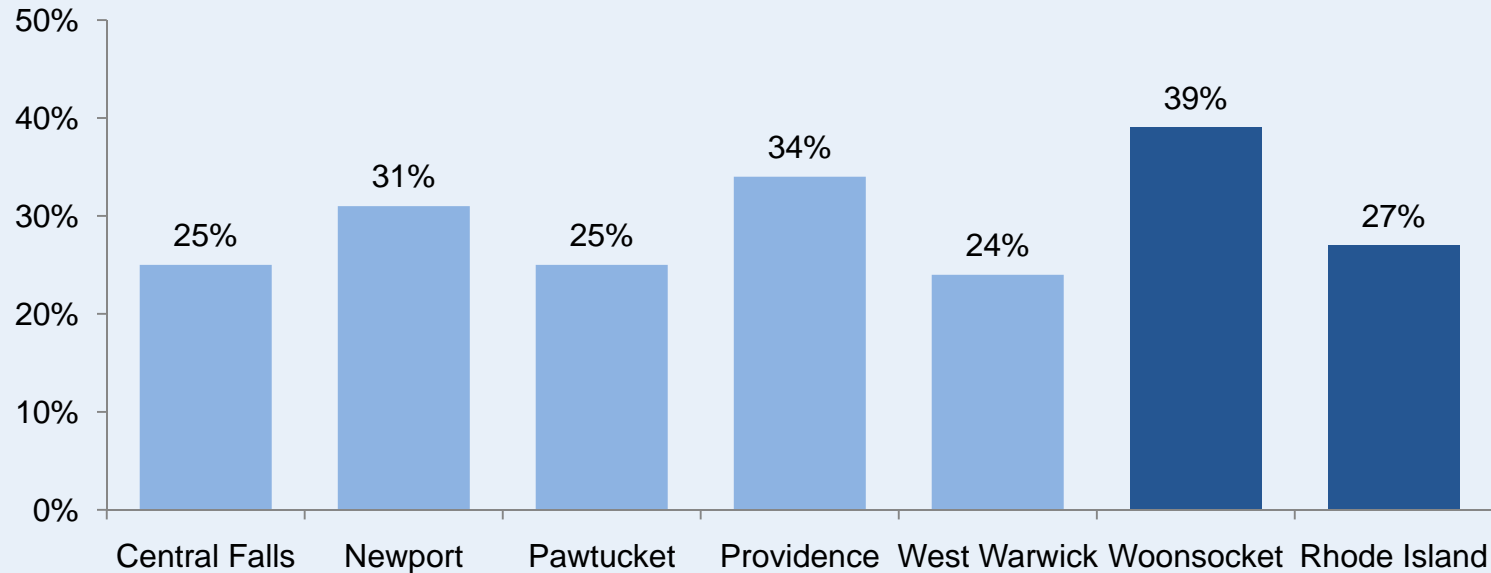
	# Participating 2005	# Participating 2009	% Change 2005- 2009
Central Falls	2,038	2,917	43%
Newport	884	1,202	36%
Pawtucket	3,795	5,790	53%
Providence	16,767	20,771	24%
West Warwick	851	1,472	73%
Woonsocket	2,833	4,696	66%
Core Cities	27,168	36,848	36%
Rhode Island	35,168	53,632	53%

Source: Rhode Island Department of Human Services, 2005-2009.

- ❖ In October 2009, 4,696 Woonsocket children were receiving SNAP benefits, a 66% increase in participation from 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.

School Breakfast Program

% of Low-Income Children Participating in School Breakfast, October 2009



Source: Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 2009.

- ❖ Woonsocket has a Universal School Breakfast Program which offers free breakfast to all children regardless of income.
- ❖ In October 2009, an average of 1,700 (39%) low-income children in Woonsocket participated in the Universal School Breakfast Program each day out of 4,401 who were eligible for free or reduced-price meals.
- ❖ Offering breakfast in the classroom at the start of the school day can increase participation.
- ❖ Students who eat breakfast have significantly higher math and reading scores, fewer absences, improved attentiveness and lower incidences of social and behavioral problems.

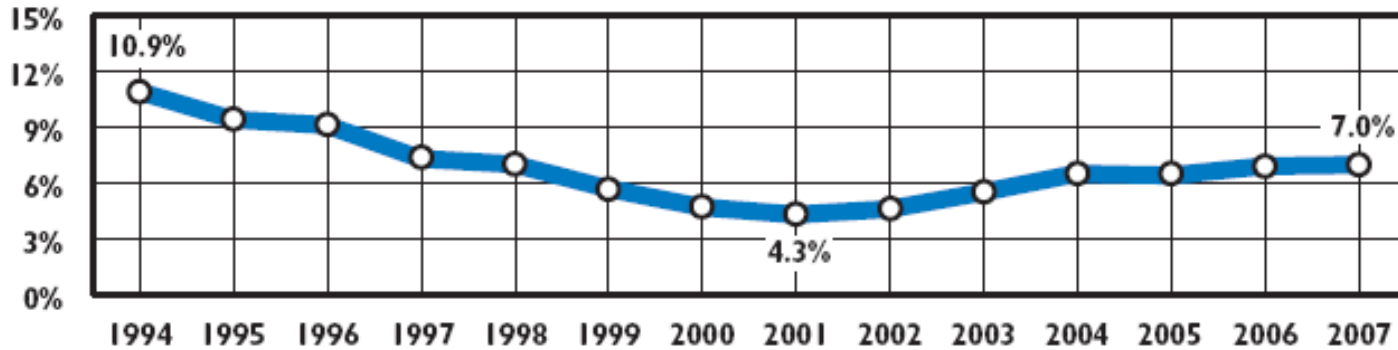


Health



Uninsured Children in Rhode Island

Children Without Health Insurance, Rhode Island, 1993-2008



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 1993-2008, three-year averages (labeled by the mid-point year), compiled by Rhode Island KIDS COUNT. Data are for children under 18 years of age.

- ❖ In Rhode Island between 2006 and 2008, 7.0% of children under age 18 were uninsured, lower than the national rate of 10.8%. Rhode Island ranks 14th best in the country for lowest percentage of children uninsured.
- ❖ In Rhode Island, the percentage of uninsured children has increased in recent years, largely due to the decline in employer sponsored health insurance coverage.
- ❖ New data on the percentage of children in Rhode Island without health insurance will be released today, so stay tuned.

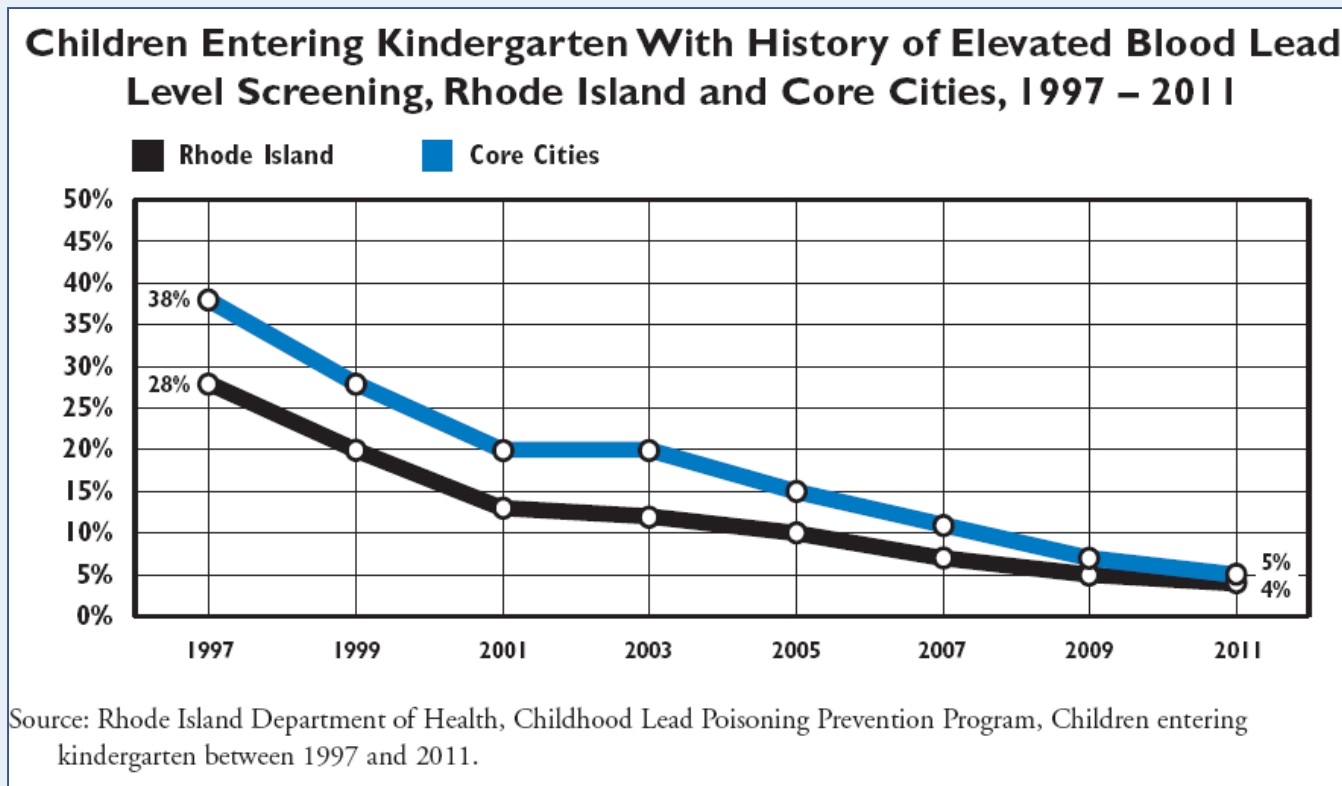
Infant Health Outcomes, 2004-2008

	Delayed Prenatal Care	Preterm Births	Low Birthweight Infants	Infant Mortality Rate/1000 Births
Central Falls	19.0%	12.0%	6.9%	8.4
Newport	11.5%	11.9%	8.0%	4.0
Pawtucket	16.4%	12.1%	8.5%	6.7
Providence	20.5%	13.8%	9.4%	9.3
West Warwick	14.5%	10.9%	7.0%	4.0
Woonsocket	15.9%	13.8%	10.0%	5.1
Remainder of State	10.2%	10.9%	7.2%	4.9
Core Cities	18.2%	13.1%	8.9%	7.6
Rhode Island	14.0%	11.9%	8.0%	6.2

Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis.

- ❖ Early prenatal care is important to identify and treat health problems and influence health behaviors that can compromise fetal development, infant health and maternal health.
- ❖ The percentage of infants born low birthweight in Woonsocket is the highest in the state at 10%, and Woonsocket's rate of preterm births is tied with Providence for highest in the state at 13.8%.
- ❖ Woonsocket's infant mortality rate (5.1 per 1,000 births) is lower than Rhode Island as a whole (6.2 per 1,000 births).

Children with Elevated Blood Lead Levels



- ❖ Despite declines in lead poisoning rates, kindergarten children living in Rhode Island's core cities are more likely to have a history of elevated blood lead levels (5.1%) than children in the remainder of the state (2.2%).
- ❖ Of the 640 Woonsocket children who will enter kindergarten in the fall of 2011 who were screened for elevated blood lead levels:
 - ❖ 30 (4.7%) screened positive (finger prick test)
 - ❖ 20 (3.1%) were confirmed positive for elevated blood lead levels ≥ 10 mcg/dL with a secondary blood test.

Children with Asthma

City/Town	Number of Children Hospitalized	Rate per 1,000 Children
Central Falls	74	2.7
Newport	43	1.7
Pawtucket	235	2.6
Providence	678	3.0
West Warwick	58	1.7
Woonsocket	105	1.9
Rhode Island	2,268	1.8

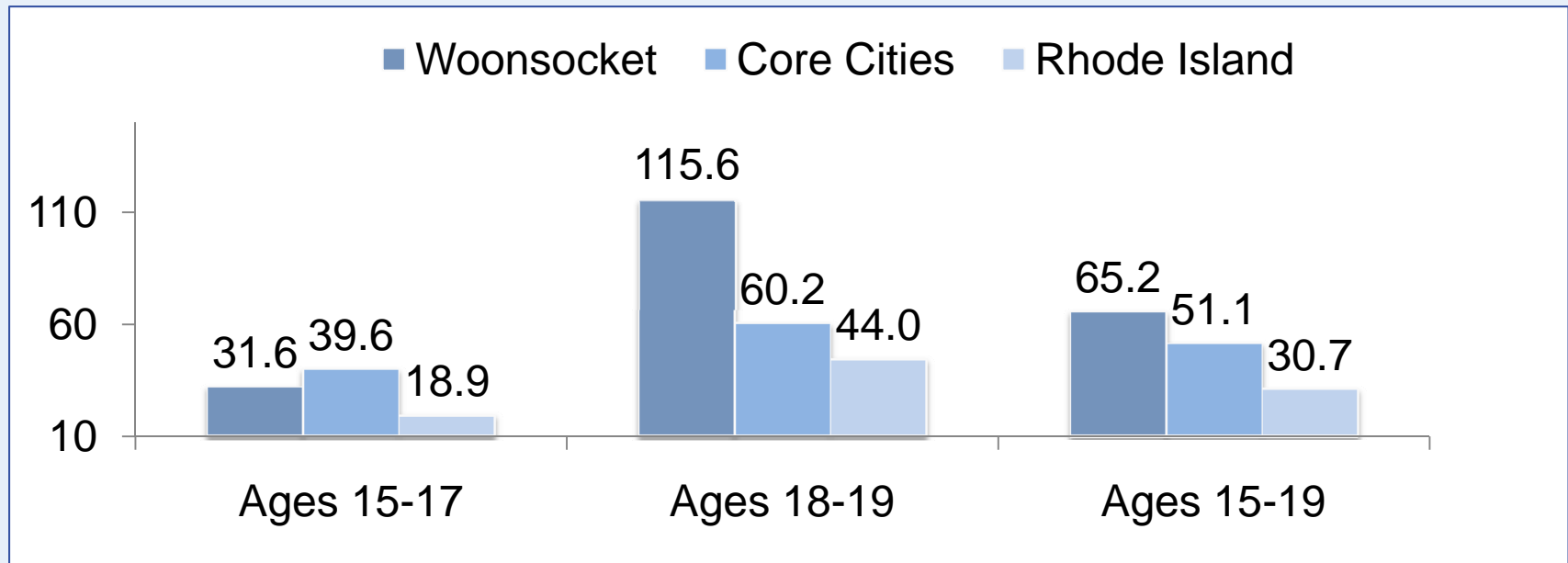
Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Hospital Discharge Database, 2004-2008.

❖ Asthma is the most common chronic condition, the third-ranked cause of hospitalization for children under age 15 and a leading cause of school absences among children in the U.S.

- ❖ Between 2004-2008, children in the core cities were hospitalized for asthma at more than twice the rate of children living in the remainder of the state.
- ❖ Between 2004-2008 in Woonsocket, 105 children were hospitalized with a primary diagnosis of asthma, a rate of 1.9 per 1,000 children.
- ❖ In Rhode Island, the average length of hospitalization for a child with asthma is two days, with an average charge of \$7,840.

Births to Teens

Births per 1,000 teen girls, 2004-2008



Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, 2004-2008.

- ❖ The teen birth rate per 1,000 teen girls ages 15 to 17 is higher in Woonsocket (31.6) than the state as a whole (18.9), but lower than the core city rate.
- ❖ The teen birth rate for teens ages 18-19 in Woonsocket is the second highest in the state at 115.6, more than twice as high as the state rate of 44.0.
- ❖ Once a teenager has a baby, she is at increased risk of having another as a teen. In 2006, Rhode Island ranked 8th nationally for the highest percentage of repeat teen births.



Safety



Youth Violence

Self-Reported Violent Behavior and Victimization, Rhode Island High School Students, 2009

	FEMALES	MALES	TOTAL
Been bullied on school property during the past 12 months	17%	15%	16%
Carried a gun, knife, or club at least once in the past 30 days	5%	16%	10%
Did not go to school on one or more of the past 30 days because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to/from school	8%	7%	7%
Were in a physical fight at least once in the past 12 months	19%	31%	25%
Were hit, slapped or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend during the past 12 months	11%	11%	11%
Ever physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to	9%	5%	7%

Source: 2009 Rhode Island Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Rhode Island Department of Health, Office of Health Statistics.

- ❖ During the 2007-2008 school year, 12% of Rhode Island public high school students and 11% of Woonsocket public high school students reported ever experiencing violence at school.
- ❖ Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth, youth with disabilities and youth with low grades (Ds and Fs) in Rhode Island are more likely than their peers to report being threatened or injured at school and to miss school because they felt unsafe.



Disconnected Youth

- ❖ Youth who have weak connections to families and who lack positive social networks and communities that can provide emotional and material support and guidance are at great risk as they transition to adulthood.

- ❖ Four key populations at risk:
 1. Youth in foster care
 2. Youth at the Rhode Island Training School
 3. Teen parents
 4. Youth who drop out of school

Children of Incarcerated Parents, 2009

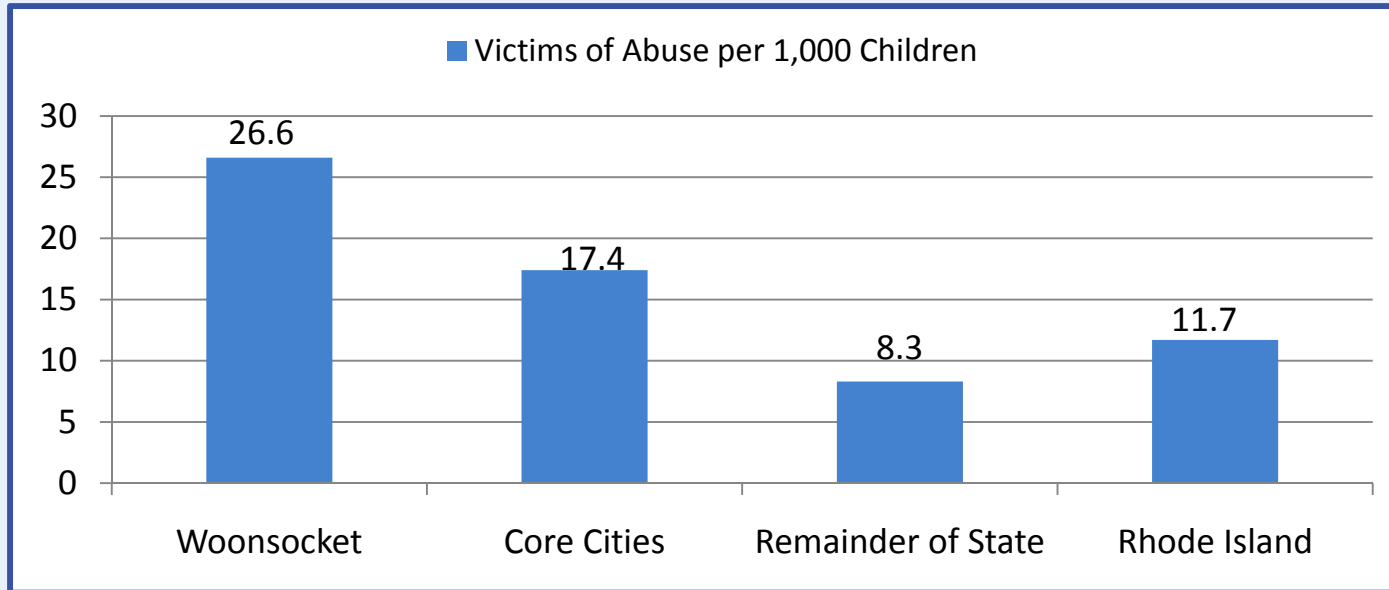
	# of Parents	# of Children Reported	Rate per 1,000 Children
Central Falls	48	99	17.9
Newport	26	55	10.6
Pawtucket	100	205	11.3
Providence	463	1,081	23.9
West Warwick	48	88	13.3
Woonsocket	84	200	17.9
Rhode Island	1,154	2,518	10.2

Source: Rhode Island Department of Corrections, September 30, 2009.

- ❖ In 2009, 1,154 adults incarcerated in Rhode Island reported having 2,518 children, a rate of 10.2 per 1,000 children.
- ❖ In 2009, 84 adults incarcerated in Rhode Island whose last known residence was Woonsocket reported having 200 children, a rate of 17.9 per 1,000 children. Woonsocket's rate is among the highest in the state.

Child Abuse & Neglect

*Victims of Child Abuse and Neglect per 1,000 children,
Woonsocket, Core Cities, Remainder of State and Rhode Island, 2009*



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

- ❖ In 2009 in Woonsocket, there were 297 victims of child abuse and neglect, a rate of 26.6 per 1,000 children, the highest rate in the state and more than double the state rate of 11.7 per 1,000 children.
- ❖ Child abuse and neglect victim rates in the core cities ranged from a low of 14.1 victims per 1,000 children in Providence to a high of 26.6 in Woonsocket.
- ❖ In 2009, the vast majority (78%) of child abuse and neglect victims were victims of neglect.



Education





Children Enrolled in Early Head Start, 2009

- ❖ According to Census 2000, an estimated 889 Woonsocket children under age three were income-eligible for enrollment in the Early Head Start program. *In 2009, no Early Head Start services were available to children in Woonsocket.*
- ❖ In 2009, Early Head Start served 4% of the estimated 9,365 eligible children under age three in Rhode Island.

Children Enrolled in Head Start, 2009

- ❖ According to Census 2000, an estimated 537 Woonsocket children ages three to four were eligible for enrollment in the Head Start preschool program. *In 2009, 206 (38%) of these children were enrolled in Head Start.*
- ❖ In 2009, Head Start served 40% of the estimated 6,200 eligible children ages three to four in Rhode Island.
- ❖ Woonsocket Head Start is one of Rhode Island's seven Pre-K demonstration sites and has the capacity to serve 18 children.



Public School Enrollment and Demographics

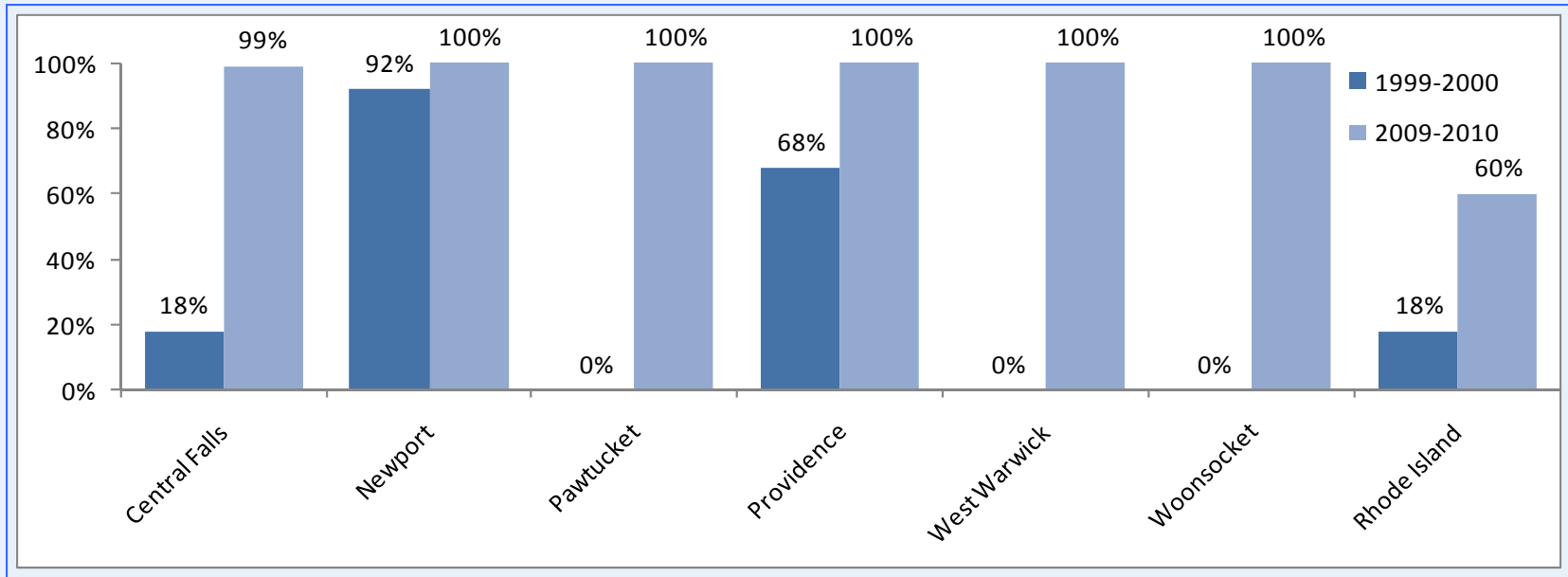
- ❖ On October 1, 2009, there were 6,086 students enrolled in Woonsocket public schools in grades pre-K through 12.
 - 52 were enrolled in preschool classrooms
 - 2,789 students were in grades K-5
 - 1,451 were in grades 6-8
 - 1,794 were in grades 9-12

- ❖ 58% of Woonsocket public school students were non-Hispanic White, 25% were Hispanic, 10% were Black, 7% were Asian and 1% were Native American.

- ❖ 68% of Woonsocket public school students were low-income (students who qualified for the free or reduced-price lunch program).

- ❖ An additional 21,007 students in Rhode Island attended private and parochial schools and 1,135 students were home schooled in 2009-2010.

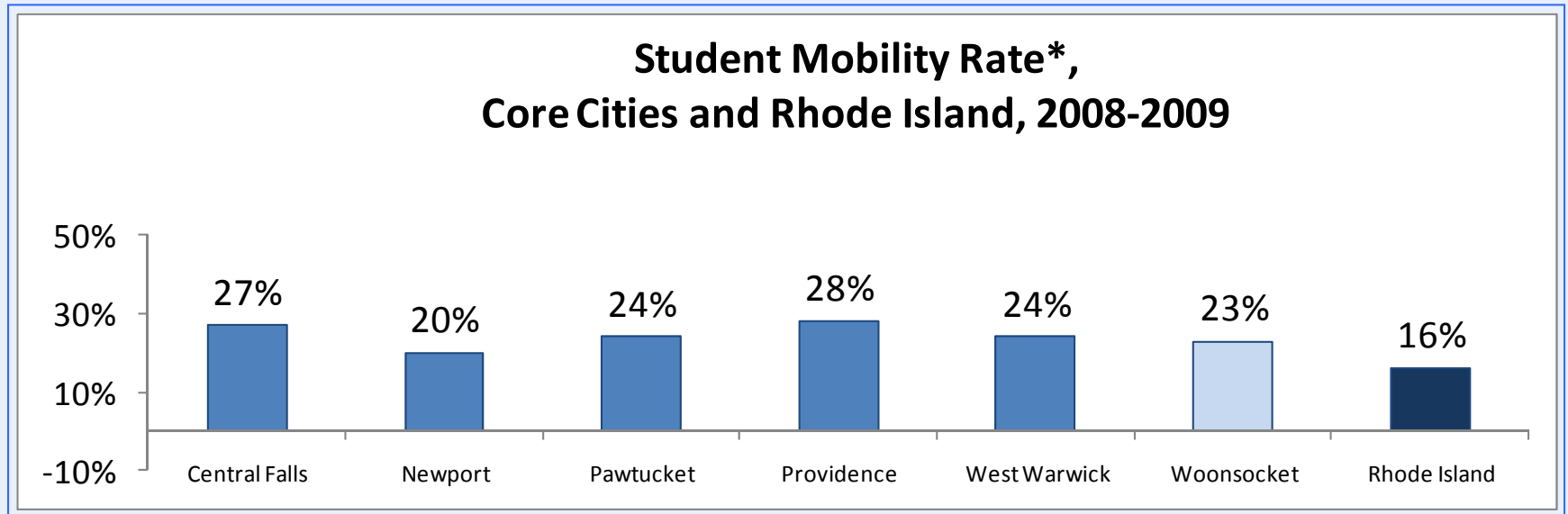
Children in Full-Day Kindergarten



Source: Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 1999-2000 & 2009-2010.

- ❖ In Rhode Island in 2009-2010, 60% of children who attended kindergarten were in full-day programs. Nationally in 2008, 72% of public-school kindergarten students were enrolled in full-day programs.
- ❖ As of the 2009-2010 school year, 16 school districts, including Woonsocket, offered universal access to full-day kindergarten classrooms. Another six school districts operated at least one full-day kindergarten classroom.
- ❖ As of the 2010-2011 school year, Woonsocket eliminated its full-day kindergarten program and is now the only core city not offering full-day kindergarten.

Student Mobility



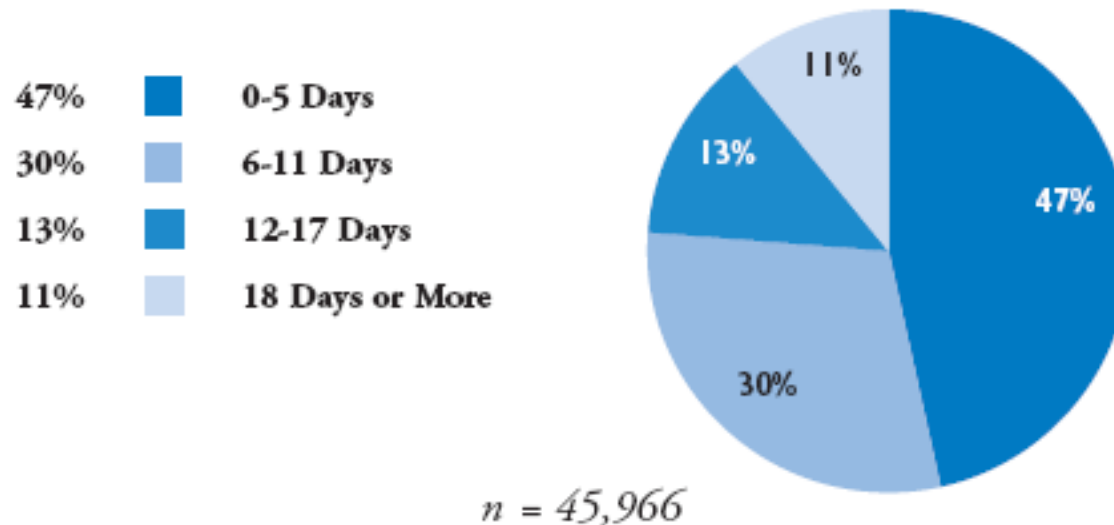
Source: Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 2008-2009.

- ❖ 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 change schools mid-year are absent more often, suspended more often and perform worse in reading and math than their peers who do not change schools.
- ❖ Nearly 1 in 4 students in Woonsocket (23%) changed schools mid-year, a much higher percentage than in the state as a whole.

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

Chronic Early Absence

School Attendance in Rhode Island by Number of School Days Missed, Kindergarten Through Third Grade, 2008-2009 School Year

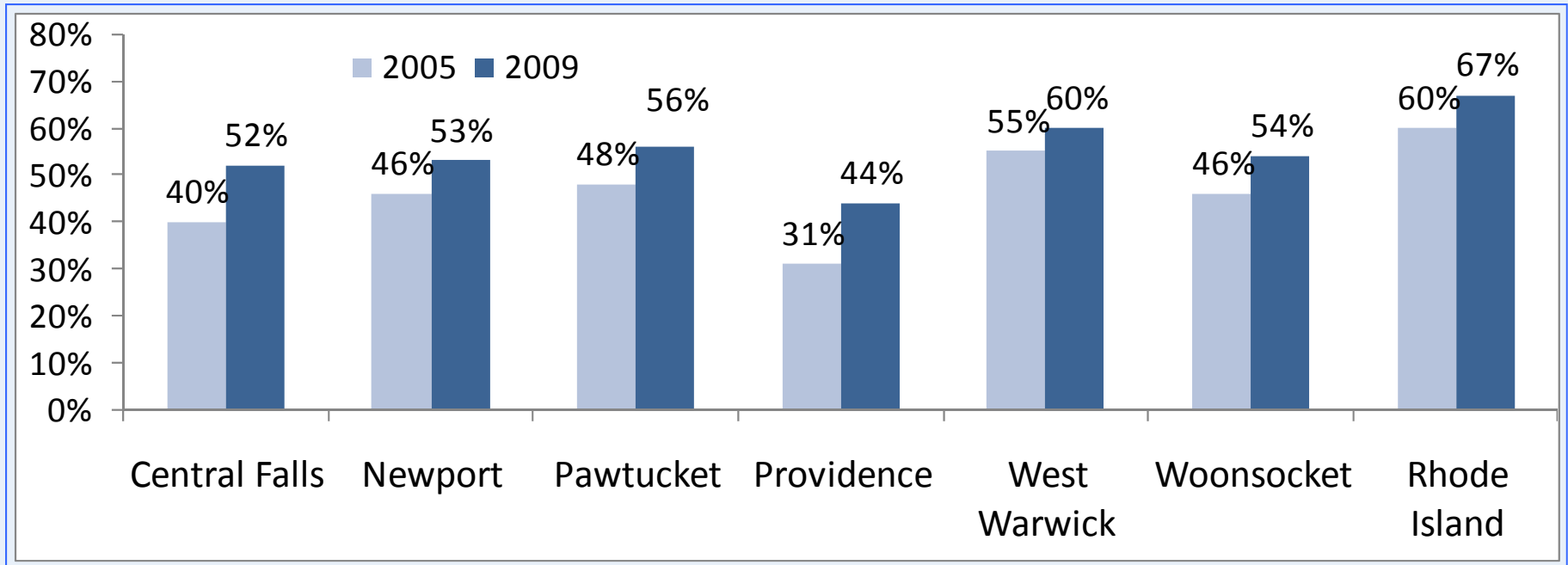


Source: Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 2008-2009 school year.

- ❖ *Chronic early absence* is the percentage of children in kindergarten through third grade (K-3) who have missed at least 10% of the school year (i.e., 18 days or more), including excused and unexcused absences.
- ❖ Data on chronic early absences in Woonsocket were not reported because there were problems with the attendance data provided by the district to RIDE.

Fourth-Grade Reading Skills

% at or Above the Proficiency Level on the NECAP
Core Cities and Rhode Island, 2005 & 2009



Source: Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 2005 & 2009.

- ❖ Between 2005 and 2009, the percentage of fourth grade students in Woonsocket public schools who were proficient in reading rose from 46% to 54%.
- ❖ This percentage is higher than the core cities rate, but lower than the state as a whole, which has a fourth-grade proficiency rate of 67%.
- ❖ Between 2005 and 2009, eighth-grade reading proficiency rates in Woonsocket increased from 28% to 51%.

Math Skills

- Rhode Island was one of only four states in which the performance of both 4th and 8th graders improved between 2007 and 2009 on the national math proficiency tests (NAEP).

4th and 8th Grade Math Proficiency Rates, 2005 & 2009

	4 th Grade 2005	4 th Grade 2009	8 th Grade 2005	8 th Grade 2009
Woonsocket	41%	53%	29%	30%
Core Cities	32%	43%	27%	34%
Remainder of State	63%	72%	57%	64%
Rhode Island	52%	62%	47%	54%

Source: Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, *New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP)*, October 2005 & October 2009.

Suspensions

- During the 2008-2009 school year, Woonsocket had the highest suspension rate in the state with 81 disciplinary actions per 100 students compared to 30 for the state and 46 for the core cities.
- Disciplinary actions include out-of-school suspensions, in-school suspensions, and alternative program placements.
- In Rhode Island, low-income students, minority students, and students with disabilities are all more likely to be suspended than other students.
- Suspension usually does not deter students from various infractions of school rules and may actually reinforce negative behavior. Suspended students are more likely than their peers to experience academic failure and juvenile justice system involvement and to drop out of school.

High School Graduation and Dropout Rates*

Class of 2009

	Graduation Rate	Dropout Rate	% Received GED	% Still in School
Central Falls	47%	33%	7%	13%
Newport	75%	11%	4%	10%
Pawtucket	55%	21%	15%	9%
Providence	66%	22%	3%	8%
West Warwick	69%	20%	3%	8%
Woonsocket	62%	24%	5%	10%
Rhode Island	75%	14%	5%	6%

Source: Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Class of 2009.

- ❖ This chart shows the percentage of students who matriculated as freshmen in 2005-2006 who graduated in 4 years, dropped out, completed their GED and were retained in school. These percentages are based on actual student counts using the unique student identifier system.
- ❖ In Woonsocket in 2009, 62% of students graduated from high school within 4 years, compared to 54% in 2007.

*Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.



College Preparation and Access

- ❖ **Just over one-half (55%) of Rhode Island seniors who graduated from high school in 2006 went directly on to a two or four-year college the next fall, compared with 62% nationally. Rhode Island ranks 43rd in the U.S. on this measure.**
- ❖ While some colleges do not require the SATs for admission, students limit their choice of colleges when they do not take **the SAT exams**. In 2008:
 - In Rhode Island: 74% of high school seniors reported planning to attend college, yet only 51% had taken the SATs
 - In Woonsocket: 70% of high school seniors reported planning to attend college, yet only 35% had taken the SATs
- ❖ Students who participate in **upper-level honors and Advanced Placement (AP) courses** are more likely to attend selective colleges and are better prepared to succeed in college than students who do not.
 - During the 2007-2008 school year, 15% of public school seniors in Rhode Island took at least one AP exam, compared with the national rate of 25%.



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