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Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Makes Data Local at *Central Falls Data in Your Backyard* Event

*Highest child abuse and neglect rate in the state
Increased access to high-quality State Pre-K
Decreased chronic absence among high school students*

Central Falls, RI (November 17, 2015) – At the *Central Falls Data in Your Backyard* event, Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Policy Analyst Stephanie Geller presented data on the well-being of Central Falls children and families to an audience of community leaders and educators, including Mayor James Diossa and Superintendent Victor Capellan. The presentation's data comes from the [2015 Rhode Island Kids Count Factbook](#), and includes improvements and declines in economic well-being, education, health, and safety. For trend data and comparisons to Rhode Island statewide rates, please see the [Central Falls Community Snapshot](#) (attached).

The Central Falls School Department co-sponsored the event, which was held on Tuesday, November 17, 2015 from 3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. at Central Falls High School (Library), 24 Summer Street, Central Falls, RI.

“We’re proud to partner with the Central Falls School District on this *Data in Your Backyard* presentation,” said Elizabeth Burke Bryant, Executive Director of Rhode Island KIDS COUNT. “Central Falls has many committed leaders working to improve the well-being of their children and families. This annual event is great way to take inventory of progress and challenges, as well as to lift up strategies that Central Falls can take to support better outcomes.”

“The Central Falls School Department and our community partners use the data Rhode Island KIDS COUNT provides throughout the year to help inform best policies and strategies to achieve success for all children,” said Superintendent Victor Capellan.

Economic Snapshot

- *Children in poverty:* In 2014, the federal poverty threshold was \$19,073 for a family of three with two children and \$24,008 for a family of four with two children. With 2,334 children living in poverty, Central Falls has among the highest child poverty rates in the state (41.1%). Children in poverty are more likely to have physical and behavioral health problems, experience difficulty in school, become teen parents, and earn less or be unemployed as adults.
 - *Children in extreme poverty:* Families with incomes below 50% of the federal poverty threshold are in extreme poverty. This is defined as \$9,537 for a family of three with two children and \$12,004 for a family of four with two children. Central Falls has 1,064 children (18.8%) living in extreme poverty.
 - *Young children in poverty:* Between 2009 and 2013, 43.8% (1,042) Central Falls children under age 6 lived in poverty.
- *Median family income:* The median family income in Central Falls is \$28,953, less than half of the state median of \$67,904.

Highest Rate of Child Abuse and Neglect

Children need love, affection, and nurturing from their parents and caregivers for healthy physical and emotional development. Experiencing child abuse or neglect can have lifelong negative consequences for a child's health, well-being, and relationships with others.

- In 2014, 218 Central Falls children were victims of child abuse and neglect, a rate of 38.6 victims per 1,000 children ages birth to 18. This is the highest child abuse and neglect rate among all Rhode Island communities, and is more than twice the state rate of 14.5 victims per 1,000 children.

"This is a serious call to action for the community," said Geller. "Experiencing abuse or neglect can damage a child's development. While neglect cases are often due to a lack of supervision, they are often also associated with factors connected to poverty, such as inadequate clothing, food, or shelter. We have to look at the well-being of the whole family when working toward keeping children healthy and safe from harm."

Second Highest Rate of Infants Born at Highest Risk in Rhode Island

Infants born at highest risk are those babies born to unmarried teenage mothers without a high school diploma. When a child is born to a teenage, unmarried mother who has not graduated from high school, he or she is nine times more likely to grow up in poverty than a child born to a married woman over age 20 with a high school diploma. While the percentage of infants born at risk has been decreasing over the past few years, both in Central Falls and statewide, 7% of all babies born in 2014 to mothers living in Central Falls were born at highest risk, the second highest rate in the state. Providing early and intensive support to families with these risk factors can improve a child's health, development, and home environment in the short-term and throughout their lifetime.

Central Falls Public Education

- *State Pre-K:* Children who attend high-quality preschool make substantive developmental, academic, language, and social gains that can persist well into later school years, and are less likely to be retained a grade or enrolled in special education. Central Falls now has three Pre-K classrooms – up from one last year – with 54 children (16% of the city's four-year-olds).
- *Decreased chronic absence in high school:* Regular attendance at school is essential for children to succeed academically and do well in life. Students who are frequently absent from school miss critical academic and social learning opportunities and are at risk of disengagement from school, academic failure, and dropping out. The chronic absence rate of Central Falls high school students has declined from 47% in 2013, to 40% in 2014.
- *Focus on decreasing out-of-school suspensions and the overall suspension rate:* National research shows that suspension does not deter students from misbehaving and may actually reinforce negative behavior. Central Falls is a leader in implementing disciplinary strategies that keep students engaged and in school. During the 2013-2014 school year, 19% of suspensions were out-of-school, a much lower percentage than many other communities where out-of-school suspensions are the primary disciplinary strategy.

All data and information presented at the *Central Falls Data in Your Backyard* is available on Rhode Island KIDS COUNT's website: www.rikidscount.org.

Rhode Island Kids Count 2015 Factbook

Indicators of Child Well-Being

Snapshot of Central Falls, Rhode Island



Census-Based Indicators		1990	2000	2010		
Child population	Central Falls	4,810	5,531	5,644		
	Rhode Island	225,690	247,822	223,956		
Children in single-parent families	Central Falls	NA	NA	49%		
	Rhode Island	NA	28%	31%		
		2009-2013				
Median family income	Central Falls	\$28,798	\$28,953			
	Rhode Island	\$66,156	\$67,904			
Children living in families below the federal poverty threshold	Central Falls	40.9%	41.1%*			
	Rhode Island	16.9%	19.5%			
Economic Well-Being		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Cost of rent	Central Falls	\$933	\$849	\$863	\$876	\$893
	Rhode Island	\$1,165	\$1,150	\$1,176	\$1,154	\$1,172
Children in families receiving cash assistance	Central Falls	8%	10%	9%	10%	9%
	Rhode Island	4%	5%	5%	4%	4%
Children receiving SNAP benefits	Central Falls	3,270	3,372	3,459	3,502	3,368
	Rhode Island	59,652	63,783	64,866	63,971	60,982
WIC participation (% income-eligible children participating)	Central Falls	79%	84%	79%	79%	75%
	Rhode Island	72%	68%	69%	66%	65%
School Breakfast Program participation (% income-eligible children participating)	Central Falls	43%	49%	43%	65%	61%
	Rhode Island	28%	36%	35%	39%	39%
Health		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Children under age 19 receiving Medical Assistance	Central Falls	4,426	4,379	4,475	4,695	4,806
	Rhode Island	92,701	93,691	95,248	96,215	104,532
Infants born at highest risk	Central Falls	6%	9%	10%	8%	7%
	Rhode Island	4%	4%	3%	3%	2%
		2005-2009	2006-2010	2007-2011	2008-2012	2009-2013
Births to mothers with less than a high school diploma	Central Falls	36%	37%	38%	37%	36%
	Rhode Island	16%	16%	16%	15%	14%
Women with delayed prenatal care	Central Falls	19.8%	21.2%	20.1%	17.6%	15.5%
	Rhode Island	14.9%	15.6%	15.0%	13.7%	12.8%
Preterm births	Central Falls	11.7%	12.1%	11.9%	11.5%	11.2%
	Rhode Island	11.8%	11.6%	11.1%	10.9%	10.7%
Infants born with low birthweight	Central Falls	7.1%	7.3%	7.6%	7.4%	7.4%
	Rhode Island	8.0%	8.0%	7.9%	7.8%	7.6%
Newborn infants exclusively breastfed	Central Falls	43%	44%	46%	48%	51%
	Rhode Island	58%	59%	61%	62%	64%
Asthma hospitalization rate (per 1,000 children under age 18)	Central Falls	2.9	3.0	2.6	2.7	2.2
	Rhode Island	1.9	2.2	2.2	2.1	1.9
Teen birth rate (per 1,000 girls ages 15 to 19)	Central Falls	91.7	85.5	79.7	78.1	73.4
	Rhode Island	30.1	27.0	25.5	23.3	21.0
Safety - Child Welfare		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Child abuse and neglect indicated victims rate (per 1,000 children)	Central Falls	23.3	23.4	20.2	30.8	38.6
	Rhode Island	13.3	14.0	13.9	14.0	14.5
Children with incarcerated parents rate (per 1,000 children)	Central Falls	19.3	18.1	20.6	17.2	16.3
	Rhode Island	10.4	10.9	11.0	11.2	11.8
Domestic violence incidents with children present	Central Falls	34%	33%	37%	42%	NA
	Rhode Island	28%	29%	31%	40%	NA

*Estimate has a high margin of error due to small sample size.

For more information, please contact Rhode Island KIDS COUNT - (401) 351-9400 - www.rikidscount.org

Safety - Juvenile Justice		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Youth Violence (# of juvenile arrests for assault and weapons offenses)	Central Falls	27	19	18	21	NA
	Rhode Island	885	797	739	660	NA
Youth at the Training School	Central Falls	26	30	18	12	17
	Rhode Island	790	641	578	482	482
Education		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Children enrolled in Early Head Start	Central Falls	48	40	26	40	50
	Rhode Island	508	519	522	503	527
Children enrolled in Head Start	Central Falls	110	93	107	81	120
	Rhode Island	2,471	2,432	2,432	2,040	2,295
Licensed early learning centers	Central Falls	4	3	4	3	4
	Rhode Island	330	309	314	309	311
Licensed family child care homes	Central Falls	22	19	18	21	21
	Rhode Island	688	639	585	581	552
Licensed early learning centers participating in BrightStars	Central Falls	0%	0.33	25%	100%	75%
	Rhode Island	7%	12%	15%	78%	78%
Licensed family child care homes participating in BrightStars	Central Falls	5%	16%	28%	95%	95%
	Rhode Island	8%	12%	21%	82%	77%
Children receiving child care subsidies (subsidy use by child residence)	Central Falls	337	365	326	340	367
	Rhode Island	7,622	7,749	7,868	7,696	9,060
Children enrolled in State Pre-K	Central Falls	NA	NA	18	18	18
	Rhode Island	NA	NA	144	234	306
Children receiving preschool special education services	Central Falls	NA	NA	44	49	97
	Rhode Island	NA	NA	2,927	2,565	2,786
Public school enrollment (total enrollment)	Central Falls	2,851	2,700	2,732	2,694	2,683
	Rhode Island	143,928	142,854	142,481	142,008	141,959
Public school enrollment (% low-income)	Central Falls	81%	86%	86%	81%	79%
	Rhode Island	43%	44%	46%	47%	47%
Children enrolled in full-day kindergarten	Central Falls	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	Rhode Island	60%	64%	68%	70%	81%
Students who are English Language Learners	Central Falls	23%	24%	25%	27%	28%
	Rhode Island	5%	6%	6%	7%	7%
Student mobility rate	Central Falls	13%	14%	25%	24%	25%
	Rhode Island	14%	14%	14%	13%	13%
4 th graders at or above reading proficiency level	Central Falls	58%	45%	42%	44%	25%
	Rhode Island	69%	71%	69%	71%	NA
4 th graders at or above math proficiency level	Central Falls	55%	37%	35%	42%	NA
	Rhode Island	63%	65%	64%	63%	NA
8 th graders at or above reading proficiency level	Central Falls	53%	51%	41%	39%	NA
	Rhode Island	74%	77%	77%	74%	NA
8 th graders at or above math proficiency level	Central Falls	28%	25%	20%	14%	NA
	Rhode Island	54%	58%	58%	57%	NA
11 th graders at or above math proficiency level	Central Falls	8%	7%	13%	13%	NA
	Rhode Island	33%	30%	34%	36%	NA
Schools identified for intervention	Central Falls	NA	NA	40%	75%	75%
	Rhode Island	NA	NA	10%	10%	12%
Chronic early absence in grades K-3	Central Falls	20%	11%	18%	24%	24%
	Rhode Island	13%	12%	11%	12%	12%
Chronic absence in high school	Central Falls	40%	44%	49%	47%	40%
	Rhode Island	25%	25%	25%	24%	24%
Suspension rate (per 100 students)	Central Falls	30	5	28	18	21
	Rhode Island	30	31	30	23	22
High school graduation rate	Central Falls	51%	70%	68%	74%	71%
	Rhode Island	76%	77%	77%	80%	81%