



RHODE ISLAND KIDS COUNT
ONE UNION STATION
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02903
401/351-9400 • 401/351-1758 (FAX)

Contact:

Katherine Chu, Communications Manager
kchu@rikidscount.org, 401.351.9400 ext 22

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

Community event will discuss the well-being of Warwick children and families

Warwick, RI (October 24, 2016) – At the *Warwick Data in Your Backyard* event, Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Senior Policy Analyst Stephanie Geller presented data on the well-being of Warwick children and youth to an audience of community leaders and policy makers. The presentation's data comes from the [2016 Rhode Island Kids Count Factbook](#), and includes improvements and declines in children and youth in Warwick. The presentation was brought to the community in partnership with the Warwick Coalition to Prevent Child Abuse and was held on **Monday, October 24, 2016 from 9:30 a.m. — 11:00 a.m. at the Warwick Public Library, 600 Sandy Lane, Warwick, RI.**

“We’re proud to partner with the Warwick Coalition to Prevent Child Abuse on this *Data in Your Backyard* presentation,” said Elizabeth Burke Bryant, Executive Director of Rhode Island KIDS COUNT. “This annual event is great way to assess progress and challenges, as well as to lift up strategies that Warwick can take to support better outcomes for its children and families.”

Economic Snapshot

- *Children in poverty:* In 2015, the federal poverty threshold was \$19,096 for a family of three with two children and \$24,036 for a family of four with two children. The extreme poverty level in 2015 was \$9,548 for a family of three with two children and \$12,018 for a family of four with two children. Warwick’s child poverty rate of 8.9% is less than half the state rate of 20.1%. However, as one of Rhode Island’s largest communities, Warwick has over 1,300 children living in poverty.
- *Cost of housing:* The average monthly cost of rent in Warwick is \$1,346, above the statewide average of \$1,238.
- *Homeless children:* During the 2014-2015 school year, Warwick Public Schools identified 85 children as homeless, an increase from 74 children the year prior.
- *Low WIC Participation:* The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) is a federally-funded preventive program that provides participants with nutritious food, nutrition education, and access to health care and social services. In Warwick in 2015, 48% of eligible children participated in WIC, lower than the state rate of 59%. Warwick’s WIC participation has been declining annually over the past four years – 62% of eligible children participated in 2012. Young children who are eligible for WIC but not participating are more likely to be in poor health, at risk for developmental delays, underweight, short for their age, and/or experience food insecurity than those who participate.

Child Abuse and Neglect

Children need love, affection, and nurturing from their parents or 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 2015, there were 107 Warwick children who were victims of child abuse and neglect, a rate of 6.8 victims per 1,000 children ages birth to 18. This is an improvement from the year prior (9.7 victims per 1,000 children in 2014), and lower than the 2015 state rate of 13.8 victims per 1,000 children.

Infant Outcomes

Warwick ranks better than the state as a whole in three categories of infant health.

- *Delayed prenatal care:* Women receiving late or no prenatal care are at increased risk of poor birth outcomes. In Warwick, 10.2% of pregnant women received delayed prenatal care between 2010-2014, compared to 12.4% of pregnant women in the state as a whole.
- *Low birthweight:* An infant's birthweight is a key indicator of newborn health, and low birthweight infants are at greater risk for physical and developmental problems than infants of normal weight. At 6.5%, the percentage of infants born low birthweight in Warwick is below Rhode Island's percentage of 7.5%.
- *Births to mothers with less than a high school diploma:* Parental education attainment can have an impact on many aspects of child well-being, with children with parents that have higher educational attainment having better economic, health, and education outcomes. At 6%, Warwick's percentage of births to mothers with less than a high school education is less than half the state rate of 13%. Nearly half (48%) of babies from Warwick had mothers with a bachelor's degree or above, compared with 36% in Rhode Island.

Warwick Public Education

- *Room for improvement in reading proficiency:* In 2015, 37% of Warwick third-grade students met expectations in reading according to the *Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)* test, which is the same as Rhode Island's overall rate. Proficiency in third-grade reading is vital for children's success, because children who do not read proficiently by the end of third grade are four times more likely to drop out of high school than their peers.
- *School breakfast participation is low:* Students who eat breakfast perform better in school – they have higher math and reading scores, fewer absences, improved attentiveness, and lower incidences of social and emotional problems. In 2015, 18% of eligible Warwick children participated in the School Breakfast Program, compared to the state rate of 40%.
- *Graduation rate:* In 2015, 81% of Warwick high school students graduated from high school, compared to the state rate of 83%.

For trend data and comparisons to Rhode Island statewide rates, please see [Warwick's Community Snapshot](#) (attached). All data and information presented at the *Warwick Data in Your Backyard* is available on Rhode Island KIDS COUNT's website: www.rikidscount.org.

Rhode Island Kids Count 2016 Factbook

Indicators of Child Well-Being

Snapshot of Warwick, Rhode Island



Census-Based Indicators		1990	2000	2010		
Child population	Warwick	18,322	18,780	15,825		
	Rhode Island	225,690	247,822	223,956		
Children in single-parent families	Warwick	NA	NA	23%		
	Rhode Island	NA	28%	31%		
		2010-2014				
Median family income	Warwick	\$74,637	\$77,375			
	Rhode Island	\$66,156	\$67,119			
Children living in families below the federal poverty threshold	Warwick	6.7%	8.9%			
	Rhode Island	16.9%	20.1%			
Economic Well-Being		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Cost of rent	Warwick	\$1,208	\$1,315	\$1,272	\$1,308	\$1,346
	Rhode Island	\$1,150	\$1,176	\$1,154	\$1,172	\$1,238
Paid Family Leave (total approved TCI claims)	Warwick	NA	NA	NA	400	489
	Rhode Island	NA	NA	NA	3,870	4,941
Children in families receiving cash assistance	Warwick	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
	Rhode Island	5%	5%	4%	4%	3%
Children receiving SNAP benefits	Warwick	2,507	2,627	2,742	2,642	2,540
	Rhode Island	63,783	64,866	63,971	60,982	59,325
WIC participation (% income-eligible children participating)	Warwick	55%	62%	54%	55%	48%
	Rhode Island	68%	69%	66%	65%	59%
School Breakfast Program participation (% income-eligible children participating)	Warwick	13%	14%	18%	18%	18%
	Rhode Island	36%	35%	39%	39%	40%
Health		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Children under age 19 receiving Medical Assistance	Warwick	4,657	4,631	4,749	5,253	5,421
	Rhode Island	93,691	95,248	96,215	104,532	110,544
Infants born at highest risk	Warwick	2%	1%	2%	1%	<1%
	Rhode Island	4%	3%	3%	2%	2%
Evidence-Based Family Home Visiting (# of families enrolled)	Warwick	NA	NA	1	4	14
	Rhode Island	NA	NA	288	500	823
		2006-2010	2007-2011	2008-2012	2009-2013	2010-2014
Births to mothers with less than a high school diploma	Warwick	8%	8%	7%	6%	6%
	Rhode Island	16%	16%	15%	14%	13%
Women with delayed prenatal care	Warwick	12.5%	12.5%	11.5%	10.6%	10.2%
	Rhode Island	15.6%	15.0%	13.7%	12.8%	12.4%
Infants born with low birthweight	Warwick	7.7%	7.5%	7.2%	6.9%	6.5%
	Rhode Island	8.0%	7.9%	7.8%	7.6%	7.5%
Newborn infants exclusively breastfed	Warwick	63%	64%	66%	68%	69%
	Rhode Island	59%	61%	62%	64%	66%
Asthma hospitalization rate (per 1,000 children under age 18)	Warwick	1.8	1.7	1.7	1.4	1.2
	Rhode Island	2.2	2.2	2.1	1.9	1.6
Teen birth rate (per 1,000 girls ages 15 to 19)	Warwick	21.3	20.1	16.9	14.2	12.2
	Rhode Island	27.0	25.5	23.3	21.0	18.6
Safety - Child Welfare		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Child abuse and neglect indicated victims rate (per 1,000 children)	Warwick	9.8	7.5	7.6	9.7	6.8
	Rhode Island	14.0	13.9	14.0	14.5	13.8
Children with incarcerated parents rate (per 1,000 children)	Warwick	7.8	7.0	5.9	8.6	6.0
	Rhode Island	10.9	11.0	11.2	11.8	12.8
Domestic violence incidents with children present	Warwick	23%	26%	41%	33%	NA
	Rhode Island	29%	31%	40%	35%	NA

Safety - Juvenile Justice		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Youth Violence (# of juvenile arrests for assault and weapons offenses)	Warwick	37	39	27	23	NA
	Rhode Island	797	739	660	586	NA
Youth at the Training School	Warwick	24	28	17	23	16
	Rhode Island	641	578	482	482	450
Education		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Children enrolled in Early Intervention (% enrolled)	Warwick	NA	NA	NA	7%	6%
	Rhode Island	NA	NA	NA	6%	6%
Children enrolled in Early Head Start	Warwick	53	40	50	43	50
	Rhode Island	519	522	503	527	582
Children enrolled in Head Start	Warwick	132	140	100	118	124
	Rhode Island	2,432	2,432	2,040	2,295	2,233
Licensed early learning centers	Warwick	25	26	27	28	27
	Rhode Island	309	314	309	311	317
Licensed family child care homes	Warwick	13	14	14	11	10
	Rhode Island	639	585	581	552	497
Licensed early learning centers participating in BrightStars	Warwick	12%	12%	81%	79%	89%
	Rhode Island	12%	15%	78%	78%	82%
Licensed family child care homes participating in BrightStars	Warwick	0%	0%	50%	36%	30%
	Rhode Island	12%	21%	82%	77%	87%
Children receiving child care subsidies (subsidy use by child residence)	Warwick	241	234	240	314	403
	Rhode Island	7,749	7,868	7,696	9,060	9,831
Children enrolled in State Pre-K	Warwick	NA	54	36	54	54
	Rhode Island	NA	144	234	306	594
Children receiving preschool special education services	Warwick	NA	8%	7%	6%	7%
	Rhode Island	NA	8%	7%	8%	7%
K-12 students receiving special education services (% enrolled)	Warwick	NA	NA	NA	18%	17%
	Rhode Island	NA	NA	NA	15%	15%
Public school enrollment (total enrollment)	Warwick	9,977	9,675	9,393	9,277	9,140
	Rhode Island	142,854	142,481	142,008	141,959	142,014
Public school enrollment (% low-income)	Warwick	31%	34%	34%	34%	33%
	Rhode Island	44%	46%	47%	47%	47%
Children enrolled in full-day kindergarten	Warwick	10%	11%	11%	28%	53%
	Rhode Island	64%	68%	70%	81%	88%
Students who are English Language Learners	Warwick	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
	Rhode Island	6%	6%	7%	7%	7%
Student mobility rate	Warwick	12%	12%	12%	11%	11%
	Rhode Island	14%	14%	13%	13%	14%
3 rd graders meeting expectations in reading (PARCC)	Warwick	NA	NA	NA	NA	37%
	Rhode Island	NA	NA	NA	NA	37%
3 rd graders meeting expectations in math (PARCC)	Warwick	NA	NA	NA	NA	35%
	Rhode Island	NA	NA	NA	NA	36%
7 th graders meeting expectations in reading (PARCC)	Warwick	NA	NA	NA	NA	31%
	Rhode Island	NA	NA	NA	NA	38%
7 th graders meeting expectations in math(PARCC)	Warwick	NA	NA	NA	NA	21%
	Rhode Island	NA	NA	NA	NA	25%
Schools identified for intervention	Warwick	NA	0%	0%	0%	0%
	Rhode Island	NA	10%	10%	12%	12%
Chronic early absence in grades K-3	Warwick	9%	8%	8%	7%	11%
	Rhode Island	12%	11%	12%	12%	14%
Chronic absence in high school	Warwick	23%	22%	21%	23%	24%
	Rhode Island	25%	25%	24%	24%	26%
Suspension rate (per 100 students)	Warwick	16	15	19	14	13
	Rhode Island	31	30	23	22	19
High school graduation rate	Warwick	82%	79%	77%	79%	81%
	Rhode Island	77%	77%	80%	81%	83%