



**MINORITY HEALTH FACTS**

# Hispanics/ Latinos

**IN RHODE ISLAND**



**2011 MINORITY HEALTH FACT SHEETS PREPARED BY:**

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[www.health.ri.gov/programs/minorityhealth](http://www.health.ri.gov/programs/minorityhealth)

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## Introduction

This report provides information about major health indicators for the Hispanic/Latino population living in Rhode Island. A Hispanic/Latino is defined by the Office of Management and Budget (Directive 15, rev 1997) as a person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race. A White person is defined as a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa.

This report presents data on socio-economic characteristics, morbidity and mortality, behavioral risks, infectious diseases, maternal and child health, and access to care among Hispanic/Latino Rhode Islanders in comparison to the White non-Hispanic and overall state populations. Please note that race and ethnic status for some Department of Health data sets are based on self-identification. The tables present point estimates which should not be used to imply statistical significance.

## Population Demographics

According to the US Bureau of the Census, 2010 Census, there are 130,655 Hispanics/Latinos living in Rhode Island, making this group the largest and one of the most diverse minority populations in the state (12.4%). Persons of Puerto Rican origin form the largest Hispanic/Latino population in Rhode Island, followed by Dominicans and Colombians. Nearly 98% of Hispanics/Latinos live in urban areas with the largest concentration of Hispanics/Latinos living in Providence, Pawtucket, and Central Falls. Estimates from the 2007-2009 American Community Survey data indicate that approximately 85% of Hispanics/Latinos in Rhode Island older than the age of five speak a language other than English in their homes (usually Spanish). The median age for the Hispanic/Latino population is 26.0 years whereas the overall state median is 39.4 years. About 96% of the Hispanic/Latino population is age 65 or younger, while 86% of the overall state population is age 65 or younger.

## Socio-Economic Characteristics

The following are socio-economic characteristics of Rhode Island's Hispanic/Latino population. These characteristics may affect the health of the Hispanic/Latino population living in Rhode Island. Except for the high school graduate rate, the socio-economic data for the Hispanic/Latino, White, and overall state populations are based on the 2007-2009 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates.

- The percentage of Hispanics/Latinos living below the poverty level is more than three times that of the White and more than two and a half times that of the overall state populations.
- The median household income for Hispanic/Latinos is \$33,900. That is \$20,800 less than the state median and \$25,600 less than that for the White population.
- A lower percentage of Hispanics/Latinos graduate from high school, and a higher percentage of Hispanics/Latinos are unemployed, than those of the White and the overall state populations.

**TABLE A: SOCIO-ECONOMIC DATA**

	HISPANIC/ LATINO <sup>1</sup>	WHITE (NON- HISPANIC) <sup>1</sup>	STATE <sup>1</sup>
Percentage of population living in poverty*	29.5%	8.2%	11.9%
Percentage of population that is unemployed	10.0%	4.4%	5.2%
Median household income**	\$33.9K	59.5K	54.7K
High school graduation rate <sup>2</sup>	82%	91%	89%

Sources: 1. US Bureau of the Census, 2007-2009 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates  
2. Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 2006-2007 School Year

\*The 100% federal poverty level for a family of 4 in 2008 was \$21,200.

\*\*The median income is the middlemost amount which divides the incomes into two equal groups, half having incomes above the median and half having incomes below the median. Household income takes into account any wage earners who share a household regardless of relation.

## Behavioral Risk Factors

The Hispanic/Latino population has the lowest percentage of adults participating in physical activity compared to the White and the overall state populations.

The percentage of Hispanic/Latinos who are obese is higher than that of the White and the overall state populations.

The percentage of Hispanics/Latinos who smoke cigarettes is lower than that of the White and the overall state populations.

## Mortality

The top two causes of death for the Hispanic/Latino, White, and overall state populations are heart disease and cancer. Perinatal conditions are the fourth top cause of death in the Hispanic/Latino population. However, this cause of death is not ranked among the top five for the White or overall state populations.

## Chronic Diseases

Racial and ethnic disparities exist in health outcomes related to chronic diseases such as asthma, diabetes, heart disease, and stroke. For detailed reports of the burden of these chronic diseases on the health of Rhode Island residents and the disproportionate impact on the state's minority residents, visit the Rhode Island Department of Health website at [www.health.ri.gov](http://www.health.ri.gov)

## Infectious Diseases

The rate of gonorrhea is almost two times higher in the Hispanic/Latino population than in the overall state population and more than three times higher than in the White population.

The rate of chlamydia in Rhode Island's Hispanic/Latino population is nearly three times higher than in the overall state population and six times higher than in the White population.

Between 2005 and 2007, the HIV rate was slightly more than two times higher for Hispanic/Latinos than it was for the overall state population. Hispanic/Latino tuberculosis rates are nine times higher, and HIV rates nearly four times higher, than those for the White population.

	HISPANIC/ LATINO	WHITE (NON- HISPANIC)	STATE
Percentage of adult population who participates in light to moderate physical activity for at least 30 minutes per day (2003, 2005, 2007)	35.8	51.9	50.3
Percentage of adult population (20 yrs+) who is overweight/obese <sup>1</sup> (2005–2008)	65.3	61.2	61.4
Percentage of adult population (20 yrs+) who is obese <sup>2</sup> (2005–2008)	26.0	21.6	22.2
Percentage of adult population who consumes at least 5 daily servings of fruits and vegetables (2003, 2005, 2007)	25.2	28.9	28.5
Percentage of adult population who smokes cigarettes (2005–2008)	14.6	18.6	18.4
Percentage of adult population who consumed 5+ drinks on one or more occasions in past month (binge-drinking) (2005–2008)	13.1	18.2	17.3

Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

1. Overweight/obesity defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as body mass index (BMI)  $\geq 25$

2. Obesity defined by CDC as BMI  $\geq 30$

*According to the 2010 Census, there are 130,655 Hispanics/Latinos living in Rhode Island, making this group the largest and one of the most diverse minority populations in the state.*

DISEASE	HISPANIC/LATINO	WHITE (NON-HISPANIC)	STATE
1	Heart Disease	Heart Disease	Heart Disease
2	Cancer	Cancer	Cancer
3	Stroke	Chronic Respiratory Diseases	Chronic Respiratory Diseases
4	Perinatal Conditions	Stroke	Stroke
5	Unintentional Injuries	Unintentional Injuries	Unintentional Injuries

Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Office of Vital Records, RI Resident Deaths, ICD-10 Codes, 2005–2009

DISEASE	HISPANIC/LATINO	WHITE (NON-HISPANIC)	STATE
Gonorrhea <sup>1</sup>	63.9	19.7	38.0
Chlamydia <sup>1</sup>	865	146	300
Tuberculosis <sup>2</sup>	12.6	1.3	3.7
HIV/AIDS <sup>3</sup>	39.8	11.0	17.9

Sources: Rhode Island Department of Health, Division of Infectious Disease and Epidemiology

1. Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) Surveillance Data, 2007

2. Tuberculosis Database, 2005–2007

3. HIV/AIDS Surveillance Data, 2007

	HISPANIC/ LATINO	WHITE (NON- HISPANIC)	STATE
Percentage of pregnant women with delayed prenatal care <sup>1,~</sup>	21.6	13.5	15.5
Rate of births to teens ages 15–19 (per 1000 teens) <sup>1*</sup>	77.9	27.1	28.3
Percentage of births to mothers with less than 12 years of education <sup>1</sup>	36.5	14.2	16.6
Percentage of infants with low birth weight (<5.5 lbs) <sup>1</sup>	8.1	7.4	8.0
Infant mortality rate (per 1000 live births) <sup>2</sup>	7.7	5.5	6.3
Percentage of children in poverty (<18 years old) <sup>3</sup>	38.4	9.1	17.1

Sources: 1. Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, 2005–2009  
2. Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, 2005–2009 (births to mothers who are Rhode Island residents)  
3. US Bureau of the Census, 2007–2009 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates

\* Note: Teens aged 15–19: Rates are calculated using 2006–2008 American Community Survey Estimates; all race categories, excluding Whites, include Hispanic ethnicity.

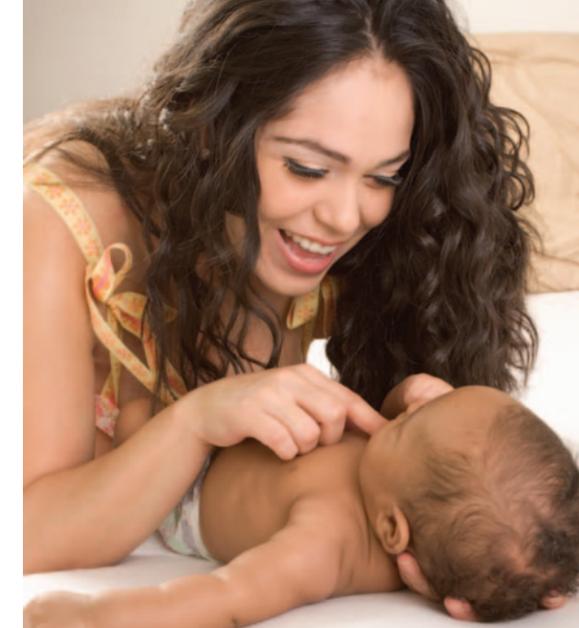
~ Delayed prenatal care is defined as beginning prenatal care in the second or third trimester or receiving no prenatal care at all.

	HISPANIC/ LATINO	WHITE (NON- HISPANIC)	STATE
Percentage of adults younger than 65 years old who reported having no health insurance (2005–2008)	31.1	6.4	9.3
Percentage of adults who reported having no specific source of ongoing healthcare (2001, 2006)	18.4	10.0	10.9
Percentage of adults who had no routine checkup within the past year (2005–2008)	25.1	19.5	20.2
Percentage of women aged 40+ who reported not receiving a mammogram in the past 2 years (2006, 2008)	18.0	16.4	16.7
Percentage of women who reported not having a pap test in the past 3 years (2006, 2008)	12.8	12.7	12.9
Percentage of adults who reported being unable to afford to see a doctor at least once in the past year (2005–2008)	27.1	7.8	10.0

Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

	HISPANIC/ LATINO	WHITE (NON- HISPANIC)	STATE
Percentage of youth who reported using marijuana one or more times during the past 30 days (2007, 2009)	19.5	26.8	24.9
Percentage of youth who reported engaging in binge drinking one or more days in the past 30 days (2007, 2009)	37.5	40.6	38.6
Percentage of youth who reported having engaged in sexual intercourse (2007, 2009)	51.3	42.3	45.0
Percentage of youth who reported smoking cigarettes or cigars or using smokeless tobacco (2007, 2009)	9.0	12.3	11.4
Percentage of youth who reported not engaging in physical activity for 60 minutes or more on 5 or more days in the past 7 days (2007, 2009)	68.4	53.5	56.9
Percentage of youth who reported never or rarely wearing a seatbelt when in a vehicle driven by someone else (2007, 2009)	20.0	10.5	13.2

Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System



## Maternal and Child Health

The overall state and the White populations have more favorable maternal and child health outcomes than the Hispanic/Latino population.

The percentage of Hispanics/Latinos who have delayed prenatal care is about two times that of the White and the overall state populations.

The percentage of Hispanic/Latino children who grow up in poverty is more than twice that of the overall state population and more than four times that of the White population.

## Access To Healthcare

A higher percentage of Hispanic/Latino adults report having no health insurance compared to all other groups and the state population overall.

A higher percentage of Hispanics/Latinos report having no ongoing source of healthcare compared to all other groups and the state population overall.

A higher percentage of Hispanic/Latino women report not having a pap test in the past three years compared to women in every other population.

## Youth Risk Behavior

The overall state and the White populations have more favorable youth risk behavior indicators than the Hispanic/Latino population.