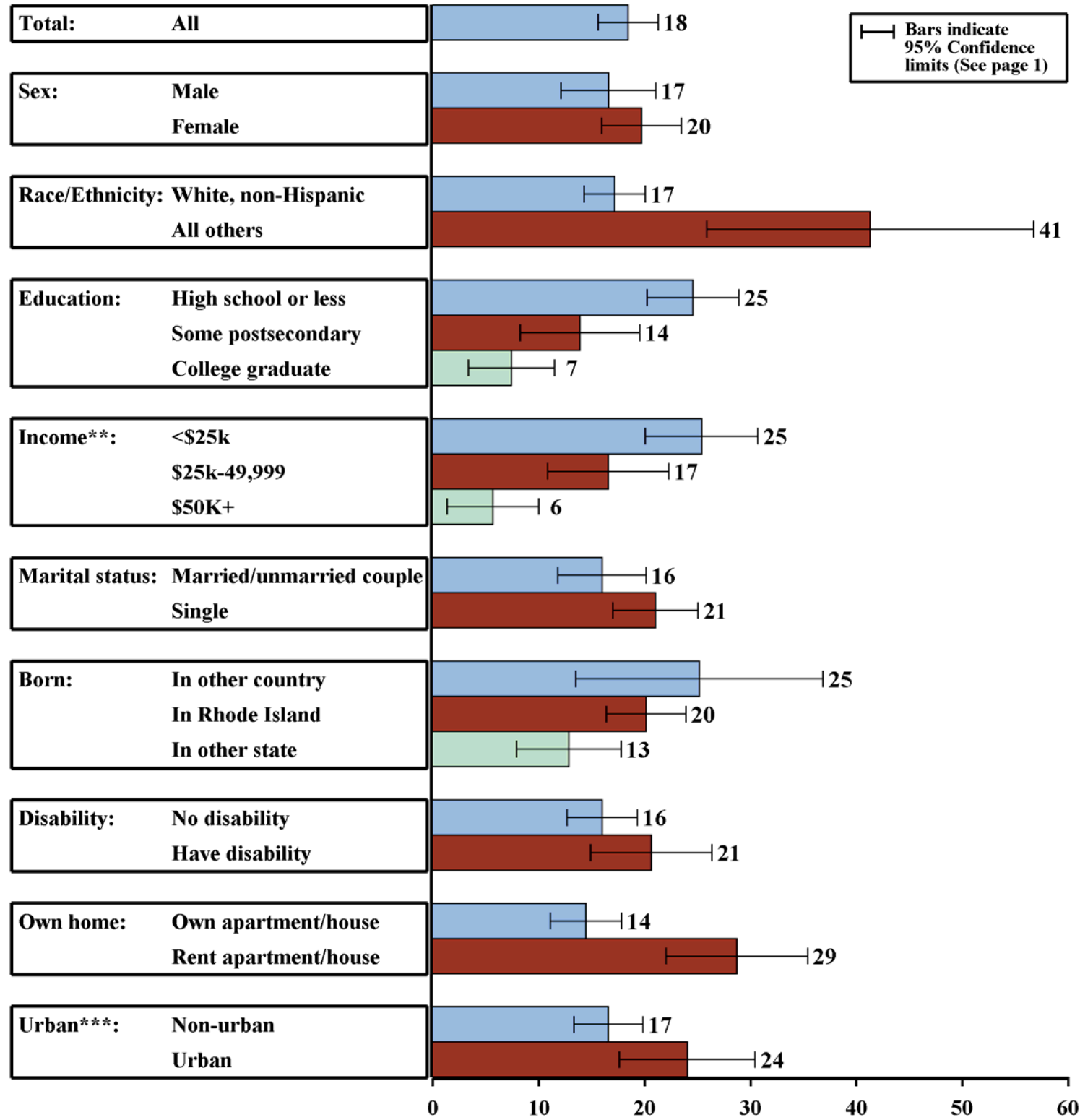


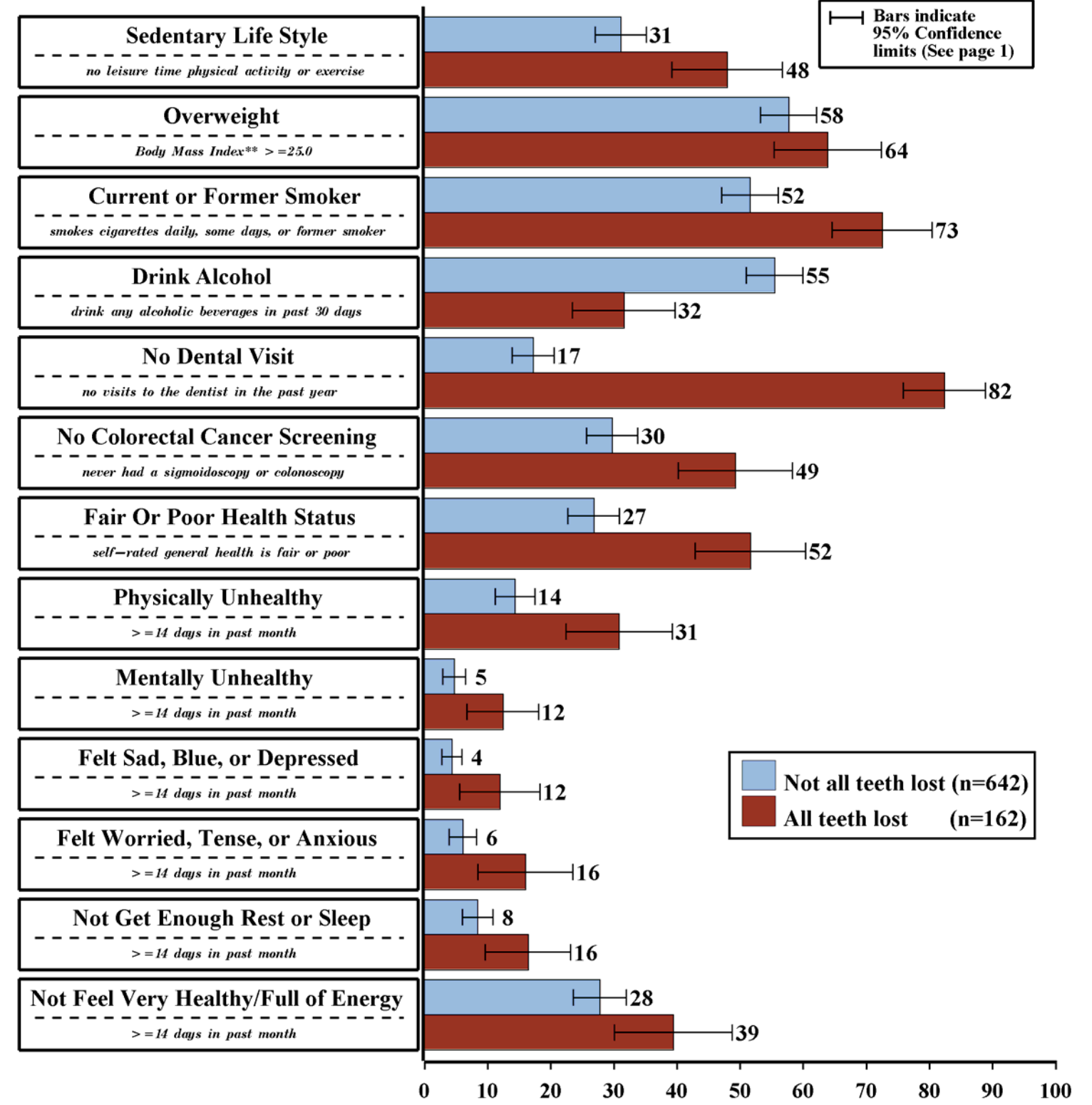
Figure 1
Edentulism* Among Rhode Island Seniors
 (Ages 65 and older) within demographic subgroups -- 2004



Source: 2004 Rhode Island Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (n=3,999)
 * All natural teeth lost due to decay or disease
 ** Annual household
 *** Providence, Central Falls, Pawtucket, Woonsocket, Newport, West Warwick

Percent

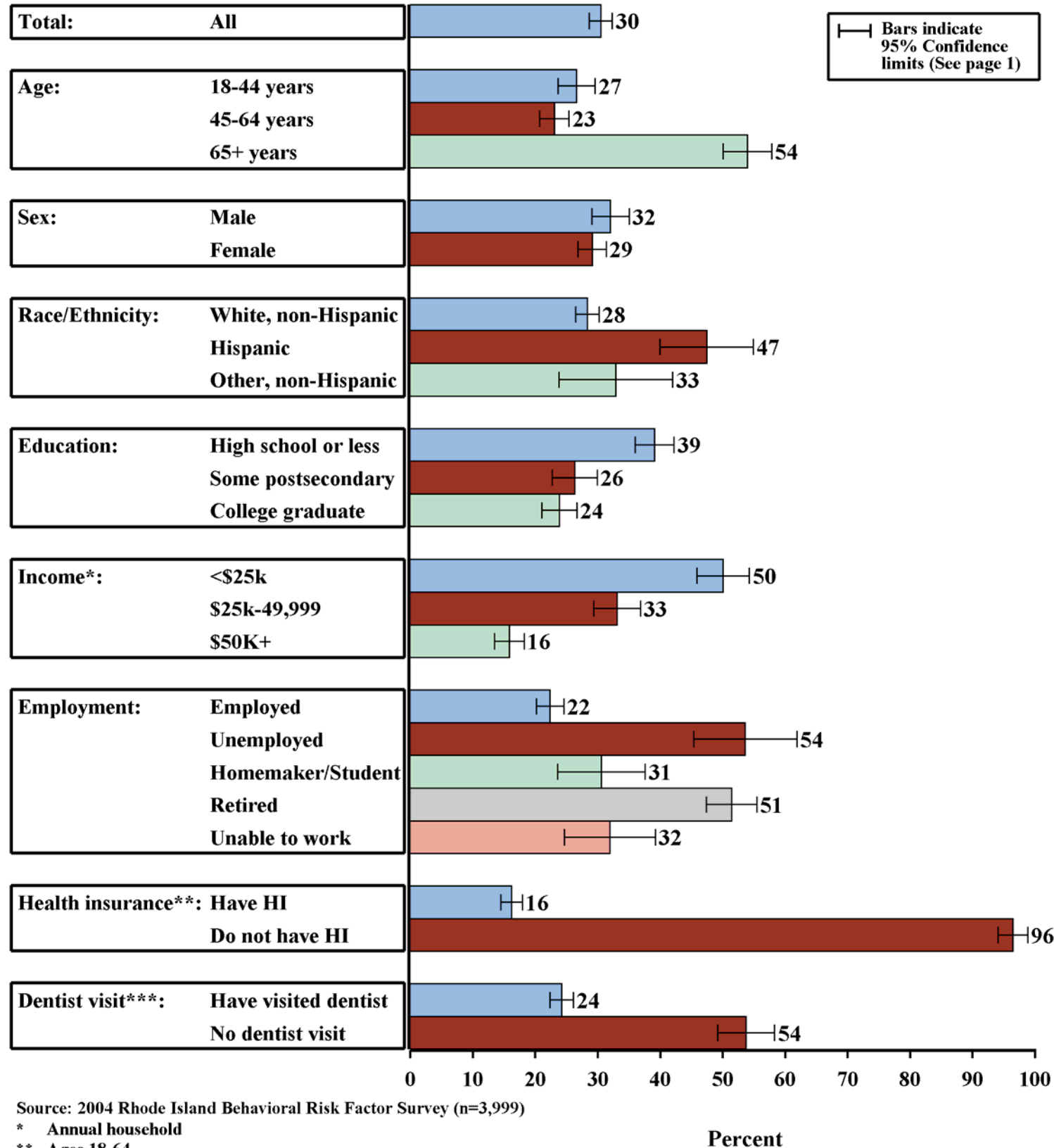
Figure 2
Health Risks Among Rhode Island Seniors
 (Ages 65 and older) with/without all teeth lost* -- 2004



Source: 2004 Rhode Island Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (n=837)
 * All natural teeth lost (not extracted) due to decay or disease
 ** Body Mass Index = weight in kilograms / (height in meters)²

Percent

Figure 3
No Dental Insurance Among Rhode Island Adults
(Ages 18 and older) within demographic subgroups -- 2004



Oral Health and Health Risks Among Rhode Island Adults in 2004

Rhode Island Department of Health
 Center for Health Data and Analysis
 August 2006

Introduction

Reducing the proportion of older adults who have lost all their natural teeth is a national Healthy People 2010 objective. This report presents 2004 data on edentulism (having lost all teeth due to decay or disease) for Rhode Islanders 65 and older and also presents 2004 data for adults of all ages who lack dental insurance. Data are from Rhode Island's 2004 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS).

About the BRFSS: The BRFSS is a telephone survey administered in all 50 states and 4 U.S. territories with funding and specifications from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The BRFSS monitors the prevalence of behavioral health risks that contribute to the leading causes of disease and death among adults 18 and older in the United States. Rhode Island has participated in the BRFSS since 1984.

Rhode Island's BRFSS: From January through December 2004, the Rhode Island BRFSS conducted random-digit dialed telephone interviews with 3,999 RI adults 18 and older. The interviews were conducted by a professional survey firm under contract to the Rhode Island Department of Health.

In this Report: This report presents data on edentulism among persons 65 and older. It includes rates for edentulism within demographic subgroups as well as for thirteen health indicators by edentulism status. This report also presents data about lack of dental insurance for adults 18 and older within demographic subgroups. "Error" bars represent the 95% confidence limits around the estimates, meaning there is a 5% chance the true value is NOT included within the span of the error bar.

Highlights

- ❖ In 2004 18% of RI adults 65 and older were edentulous (had lost all teeth). Significantly higher rates of edentulism occurred among minority respondents (41%), among those with less than some postsecondary education (25%), among persons with annual household incomes less than \$25,000 (25%), and among those living in rented housing (29%). Edentulism rates decreased with increasing income and education (Fig. 1).
- ❖ Edentulous seniors have elevated rates for several health risks. Almost 3 out of 4 edentulous seniors (73%) are either current or former smokers; 48% have a sedentary life style; and 49% have never had a sigmoidoscopy or colonoscopy. (Fig. 2)
- ❖ Edentulous seniors fare less well than non-edentulous seniors on quality of life indicators. For instance, 52% have fair or poor health status; 31% reported being physically unhealthy for 14 or more days in the prior month, and 12% reported being mentally unhealthy for 14 or more days in the prior month. (Fig. 2)
- ❖ 30% of Rhode Island adults 18 and older had no dental insurance in 2004. Rates were much higher among those 65 and older (54%), and among working age adults (ages 18- 64) without health insurance (96%). 50% of those with annual household incomes less than \$25,000, 39% of those with a high school education or less, and almost half of Hispanics (47%), had no dental insurance. (Fig. 3)



The RI BRFSS is funded in part by the Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Programs Cooperative Agreement #U58/CCU122791 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Go to <http://www.health.ri.gov/chic/statistics/brfss.php> and <http://www.health.ri.gov/webquery/index.html> for this report and other RI BRFSS data. For more information on methods, definitions, national or state data, go to CDC's BRFSS website

<http://www.cdc.gov/brfss>, or contact the Center for Health Data and Analysis, RI Department of Health (401-222-2550). This report was prepared by Y Jiang, Ph.D. and JE Hesser, Ph.D.