

PETITION OF
THE NARRAGANSETT ELECTRIC COMPANY
AND
SOUTHERN UNION COMPANY
FOR APPROVAL OF
PURCHASE AND SALE OF ASSETS

DOCKET NO. D-06-13
BEFORE THE RHODE ISLAND DIVISION OF
PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS

EXHIBITS WC-1 to WC-8
OF THE
GEORGE WILEY CENTER

JUNE 27, 2006

RI DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES & CARRIERS DOCKET NO. <u>D-06-13</u> SPONSOR <u>Wiley Center</u> EXHIBIT NO. <u>2</u> IDENT. (DATE) <u>6-29-06</u> FILE (DATE) <u>6-29-06</u> DIRECTOR <u>JS</u>

2006 MONTHLY UTILITY SHUT-OFFS

Month	New England Gas						NGrid						Pascoag Utility District						Totals					
	S/O		Restored		S/O		Restored		S/O		Restored		S/O		Restored		S/O		Restored		S/O		Restored	
	S	P	S	P	S	P	S	P	S	P	S	P	S	P	S	P	S	P	S	P	S	P	S	P
JAN	324	0	162	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	327		164	20
FEB	236	0	187	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	238		189	60
MAR	440	0	191	47	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	2	5	0	447	2	196	47	
APR	1259	96	390	59	1121	145	939	136	136	20	0	19	0	0	0	0	20	0	19	0	2400	241	1348	195
MAY	1665	284	606	140	2006	737	1371			55	0	53	0	0	0	0	55	0	53	0	3726	1021	2030	#####
JUNE																								
JULY																								
AUG																								
SEP																								
OCT																								
NOV																								
DEC																								
YTD TOTAL	3924	380	1536	326	3127	882	2310	136	136	87	2	81	0	0	0	0	87	2	81	0	7138	1264	3927	462
YTD AGG.	4304		1862		4009		2446			89		81					89		81		8402		4389	

NGrid and Pascoag Utility District Combined

Shut Off		Restored	
S	P	S	P
3214	884	2391	136

P = Protected Customer - A residential customer who is elderly, handicapped, seriously ill, receiving unemployment compensation, receiving federal heating assistance or qualifies as a financial hardship. Financial hardship customers have a combined income at or below 75% of the RI median income as determined by the US Department of Health and Human Services.

S = Standard Customer - A residential customer who does not qualify as a protected customer.

2005 MONTHLY UTILITY SHUT-OFFS

Month	New England Gas						NECo						Pascoag Utility District						Totals						
	S/O			Restored			S/O			Restored			S/O			Restored			Total S/O			Total Restored			
	S	P		S	P		S	P		S	P		S	P		S	P		S	P		S	P		
JAN	160			108			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	160			160			
FEB	210			105			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	212			212			108
MAR	427			174			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	429			429			106
APR	1156	95	409	53			621	26	498	23			3	0	0	0	0	0	1780	121		1780	121		174
MAY	1658	531	643	144			885	341	667	293			83	2	81	0	0	0	2626	874		2626	874		909
JUNE	1796	529	539	155			741	156	607	138			60	0	58	0	0	0	2597	685		2597	685		76
JULY	1668	345	695	165			555	176	464	151			16	0	16	0	0	0	2239	521		2239	521		437
AUG	2124	466	845	232			1067	294	853	263			24	1	23	0	0	0	3215	761		3215	761		293
SEP	911	844	801	411			761	186	666	160			24	0	22	0	0	0	1696	1030		1696	1030		316
OCT	1477	408	1226	504			976	250	858	230			46	0	44	0	0	0	2499	658		2499	658		495
NOV	161	0	546	156			0	0	0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	161			161			571
DEC	107	0	178	114			0	0	0	0			0	0	0	0	0	0	107			107			734
YTD TOTAL	11855	3218	6269	1934			5606	1429	4613	1258			260	3	247	0	0	0	17721	4650		17721	4650		156
YTD AGG.	15073		8203				7035		5871			263		247					22371			22371			1129
																									3192

NECo and Pascoag Utility District Combined			
Shut Off		Restored	
S	P	S	P
5866	1432	4860	1258

P = Protected Customer - A residential customer who is elderly, handicapped, seriously ill, receiving unemployment compensation, receiving federal heating assistance or qualifies as a financial hardship. Financial hardship customers have a combined income at or below 75% of the RI median income as determined by the US Department of Health and Human Services.

S = Standard Customer - A residential customer who does not qualify as a protected customer.

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FEDERAL REGISTER

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Notices

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (HHS)

Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Services

Annual Update of the HHS Poverty Guidelines

71 FR 3848

DATE: Tuesday, January 24, 2006

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice provides an update of the HHS poverty guidelines to account for last calendar year's increase in prices as measured by the Consumer Price Index.

DATES: *Effective Date:* Date of publication, unless an office administering a program using the guidelines specifies a different effective date for that particular program.

ADDRESSES: Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Room 404E, Humphrey Building, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Washington, DC 20201.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information about how the guidelines are used or how income is defined in a particular program, contact the Federal, state, or local office that is responsible for that program. Contact information for two frequently requested programs is given below:

For information about the Hill-Burton Uncompensated Services Program (free or reduced-fee health care services at certain hospitals and other facilities for persons meeting eligibility criteria involving the poverty guidelines), contact the Office of the Director, Division of Facilities Compliance and Recovery, Health Resources and Services Administration, HHS, Room 10-105, Parklawn Building, 5600 Fishers Lane, Rockville, Maryland 20857. To speak to a person, call (301) 443-5656. To receive a Hill-Burton information package, call 1-800-638-0742 (for callers outside Maryland) or 1-800-492-0359 (for callers in Maryland). You may also visit <http://www.hrsa.gov/osp/dfcr/>. The Division of Facilities Compliance and Recovery notes that as set by 42 CFR 124.505(b), the effective date of this update of the poverty guidelines for facilities obligated under the Hill-Burton Uncompensated Services Program is sixty days from the date of this publication.

For information about the percentage multiple of the poverty guidelines to be used on immigration forms such as USCIS Form I-864, Affidavit of Support, contact U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services at 1-800-375-5283 or visit <http://uscis.gov/graphics/howdoi/affsupp.htm>.

For information about the number of people in poverty or about the Census Bureau poverty thresholds, visit the Poverty section of the Census Bureau's Web site at <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/poverty.html> or contact the Housing and Household Economic Statistics Information Staff at (301) 763-3242.

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For general questions about the poverty guidelines themselves, contact Gordon Fisher, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, Room 404E, Humphrey Building, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC 20201--telephone: (202) 690-7507--or visit <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 673(2) of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (OBRA) of 1981 (42 U.S.C. 9902(2)) requires the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services to update, at least annually, the poverty guidelines, which shall be used as an eligibility criterion for the Community Services Block Grant program. The poverty guidelines also are used as an eligibility criterion by a number of other Federal programs. The *poverty guidelines* issued here are a simplified version of the *poverty thresholds* that the Census Bureau uses to prepare its estimates of the number of individuals and families in poverty.

As required by law, this update is accomplished by increasing the latest published Census Bureau poverty thresholds by the relevant percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U). The guidelines in this 2006 notice reflect the 3.4 percent price increase between calendar years 2004 and 2005. After this inflation adjustment, the guidelines are rounded and adjusted to standardize the differences between family sizes. The same calculation procedure was used this year as in previous years. (Note that these 2006 guidelines are roughly equal to the poverty thresholds for calendar year 2005 which the Census Bureau expects to publish in final form in August 2006.)

2006 Poverty Guidelines for the 48 Contiguous States
and the District of Columbia

Persons in family unit	Poverty guideline
1	\$ 9,800
2	13,200
3	16,600
4	20,000
5	23,400
6	26,800
7	30,200
8	33,600

For family units with more than 8 persons, add \$ 3,400 for each additional person.

2006 Poverty Guidelines for Alaska

Persons in family unit	Poverty guideline
1	\$ 12,250
2	16,500
3	20,750
4	25,000
5	29,250
6	33,500
7	37,750
8	42,000

For family units with more than 8 persons, add \$ 4,250 for each additional person.

2006 Poverty Guidelines for Hawaii

Persons in family unit	Poverty guideline
1	\$ 11,270
2	15,180
3	19,090

2006 Poverty Guidelines for Hawaii

	Persons in family unit	Poverty guideline
4	23,000	
5	26,910	
6	30,820	
7	34,730	
8	38,640	

For family units with more than 8 persons, add \$ 3,910 for each additional person.

Separate poverty guideline figures for Alaska and Hawaii reflect Office of Economic Opportunity administrative practice beginning in the 1966-1970 period. (Note that the Census Bureau poverty thresholds--the version of the poverty measure used for statistical purposes--have never had separate figures for Alaska and Hawaii). The poverty guidelines are not defined for Puerto Rico or other outlying jurisdictions. In cases in which a Federal program using the poverty guidelines serves any of those jurisdictions, the Federal office that administers the program is responsible for deciding whether to use the contiguous-states-and-DC guidelines for those jurisdictions or to follow some other procedure.

Due to confusing legislative language dating back to 1972, the poverty guidelines have sometimes been mistakenly referred to as the "OMB" (Office of Management and Budget) poverty guidelines or poverty line. In fact, OMB has never issued the guidelines; the guidelines are issued each year by the Department of Health and Human Services. The poverty guidelines may be formally referenced as "the poverty guidelines updated periodically in the **Federal Register** by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the authority of 42 U.S.C. 9902(2)."

Some programs use a percentage multiple of the guidelines (for example, 125 percent or 185 percent of the guidelines), as noted in relevant authorizing legislation or program regulations. Non-Federal organizations that use the poverty guidelines under their own authority in non-Federally-funded activities can choose to use a percentage multiple of the guidelines such as 125 percent or 185 percent.

The poverty guidelines do not make a distinction between farm and non-farm families or between aged and non-aged units. (Only the Census Bureau poverty thresholds have separate figures for aged and non-aged one-person and two-person units).

Note that this notice does not provide definitions of such terms as "income" or "family." This is because there is considerable variation in how different programs that use the guidelines define these terms, traceable to the different laws and regulations that govern the various programs. Therefore, questions about how a particular program applies the poverty guidelines (e.g., Is income before or after taxes? Should a particular type of income be counted? Should a particular person be counted in the family or household unit?) should be directed to the organization that administers the program.

Dated: January 18, 2006.

Michael O. Leavitt,

Secretary of Health and Human Services.

[FR Doc. 06-624 Filed 1-20-06; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4151-05-P

U.S. Census Bureau

American FactFinder



United States and States
R1701. Percent of People Below Poverty Level in the Past 12 Months (For Whom Poverty Status is Determined): 2004
 Universe: Population for whom poverty status is determined
 Data Set: 2004 American Community Survey

NOTE. Data are limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see Survey Methodology.

Rank ↓	State ↓	Percent	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
1	Mississippi	21.6	20.5	22.7
2	Louisiana	19.4	18.4	20.4
3	New Mexico	19.3	17.7	20.9
4	District of Columbia	18.9	17.2	20.6
5	Arkansas	17.9	16.6	19.2
5	West Virginia	17.9	16.6	19.2
7	Kentucky	17.4	16.1	18.7
8	Texas	16.6	16.1	17.1
9	Alabama	16.1	15.3	16.9
10	South Carolina	15.7	14.4	17.0
11	Oklahoma	15.3	14.0	16.6
12	North Carolina	15.2	14.0	16.4
13	Georgia	14.8	14.1	15.5
14	Idaho	14.5	13.2	15.8
14	Tennessee	14.5	13.4	15.6
16	Arizona	14.2	13.1	15.3
16	Montana	14.2	13.3	15.1
16	New York	14.2	13.7	14.7
19	Oregon	14.1	13.1	15.1
20	California	13.3	12.9	13.7
	United States	13.1	12.9	13.3
21	Washington	13.1	12.1	14.1
22	Rhode Island	12.8	11.8	13.8
23	Nevada	12.6	11.1	14.1
24	Ohio	12.5	11.7	13.3
25	Maine	12.3	11.2	13.4
25	Michigan	12.3	11.6	13.0
27	Florida	12.2	11.7	12.7
28	North Dakota	12.1	10.4	13.8
29	Illinois	11.9	11.2	12.6
30	Missouri	11.8	10.6	13.0
31	Pennsylvania	11.7	11.2	12.2
32	Colorado	11.1	9.8	12.4
33	Nebraska	11.0	10.3	11.7
33	South Dakota	11.0	9.5	12.5
35	Utah	10.9	9.6	12.2
36	Indiana	10.8	9.7	11.9
37	Wisconsin	10.7	9.8	11.6
38	Hawaii	10.6	8.3	12.9
39	Kansas	10.5	9.9	11.1
40	Wyoming	10.3	9.6	11.0
41	Delaware	9.9	9.0	10.8
41	Iowa	9.9	9.3	10.5
43	Virginia	9.5	8.6	10.4
44	Massachusetts	9.2	8.7	9.7

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Rank	State	Percent	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
45	Vermont	9.0	8.1	9.9
46	Maryland	8.8	8.1	9.5
47	New Jersey	8.5	7.9	9.1
48	Minnesota	8.3	7.5	9.1
49	Alaska	8.2	7.4	9.0
50	Connecticut	7.6	6.9	8.3
50	New Hampshire	7.6	6.8	8.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey

Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. The degree of uncertainty for an estimate arising from sampling variability is represented through the use of a confidence interval. The interval shown here is a 90 percent confidence interval. The stated range can be interpreted roughly as providing a 90 percent probability that the interval defined by the lower and upper bounds contains the true value. In addition to sampling variability, the ACS estimates are subject to nonsampling error (for a discussion of nonsampling variability, see Accuracy of the Data). The effect of nonsampling error is not represented in these tables.

Explanation of Symbols:

1. An '*' entry in the lower and upper bound columns indicates that too few sample observations were available to compute a standard error and thus the lower and upper bounds. A statistical test is not appropriate.
2. An '**' entry in the lower and upper bound columns indicates that no sample observations were available to compute a standard error and thus the lower and upper bounds. A statistical test is not appropriate.
3. An '-' entry in the estimate column indicates that no sample observations were available to compute an estimate.
4. An 'l' following a median estimate means the median falls in the lowest interval of an open-ended distribution.
5. An 'u' following a median estimate means the median falls in the upper interval of an open-ended distribution.
6. An '***' entry in the lower and upper bound columns indicates that the median falls in the lowest interval or upper interval of an open-ended distribution. A statistical test is not appropriate.
7. An '*****' entry in the lower and upper bound columns indicates that the estimate is controlled. A statistical test is not appropriate.
8. An 'N' entry in the estimate, lower bound, and upper bound columns indicates that data for this geographic area cannot be displayed because the number of sample cases is too small.

U.S. Census Bureau
American FactFinder



United States and States
R1702. Percent of Related Children Under 18 Years Below Poverty Level in the Past 12 Months: 2004
Universe: Related children under 18 years
Data Set: 2004 American Community Survey

NOTE. Data are limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see Survey Methodology.

Rank ↓	State ↓	Percent	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
1	District of Columbia	33.7	29.2	38.2
2	Mississippi	30.8	28.7	32.9
3	Louisiana	29.5	27.3	31.7
4	New Mexico	27.0	24.2	29.8
5	Arkansas	25.3	22.6	28.0
6	Kentucky	24.6	22.1	27.1
7	West Virginia	24.0	20.7	27.3
8	Alabama	23.2	21.6	24.8
9	Texas	22.6	21.6	23.6
10	South Carolina	22.5	20.2	24.8
11	North Carolina	21.5	19.3	23.7
12	Georgia	20.9	19.6	22.2
13	Rhode Island	20.7	18.1	23.3
14	Tennessee	20.6	18.3	22.9
15	Oklahoma	20.5	18.0	23.0
16	New York	20.3	19.4	21.2
17	Arizona	19.6	17.7	21.5
18	Idaho	19.1	16.6	21.6
19	Montana	18.7	16.9	20.5
20	California	18.5	17.7	19.3
20	Nevada	18.5	15.0	22.0
22	Oregon	18.3	16.3	20.3
	United States	18.1	17.8	18.4
23	Ohio	18.0	16.4	19.6
24	Florida	17.2	16.1	18.3
24	Michigan	17.2	15.8	18.6
26	Washington	16.9	15.5	18.3
27	Maine	16.7	14.1	19.3
28	Illinois	16.5	15.3	17.7
28	Pennsylvania	16.5	15.4	17.6
30	Missouri	15.8	13.7	17.9
31	North Dakota	14.8	11.3	18.3
32	South Dakota	14.5	11.8	17.2
33	Indiana	14.4	12.5	16.3
34	Colorado	14.2	11.6	16.8
35	Delaware	13.6	11.3	15.9
35	Hawaii	13.6	10.2	17.0
35	Wisconsin	13.6	12.4	14.8
35	Wyoming	13.6	12.1	15.1
39	Utah	13.1	11.1	15.1
40	Nebraska	12.7	11.4	14.0
41	Virginia	12.6	11.1	14.1
42	Massachusetts	12.2	11.0	13.4
43	Iowa	12.1	10.7	13.5
44	New Jersey	11.7	10.5	12.9

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Rank ↓	State ↓	Percent	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
45	Kansas	11.6	10.1	13.1
46	Maryland	11.0	9.7	12.3
47	Vermont	10.9	9.0	12.8
48	Alaska	10.4	7.5	13.3
49	Minnesota	10.2	8.4	12.0
50	Connecticut	10.1	8.5	11.7
51	New Hampshire	9.4	7.4	11.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey

Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. The degree of uncertainty for an estimate arising from sampling variability is represented through the use of a confidence interval. The interval shown here is a 90 percent confidence interval. The stated range can be interpreted roughly as providing a 90 percent probability that the interval defined by the lower and upper bounds contains the true value. In addition to sampling variability, the ACS estimates are subject to nonsampling error (for a discussion of nonsampling variability, see Accuracy of the Data). The effect of nonsampling error is not represented in these tables.

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4. An '↓' following a median estimate means the median falls in the lowest interval of an open-ended distribution.
5. An '↑' following a median estimate means the median falls in the upper interval of an open-ended distribution.
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Children in Poverty

DEFINITION

Children in poverty is the percentage of related and unrelated children under age 18 living in a household below the federal poverty threshold, as defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. Poverty is determined based on income received during the year prior to the Census.

SIGNIFICANCE

Poverty is related to every KIDS COUNT indicator. Children in poverty, especially those in poverty for extended periods of time, are more likely to have health and behavioral problems, experience difficulty in school, become teen parents, earn less as adults and be unemployed more frequently.¹² Children in low-income communities are more likely to attend schools that lack resources and rigor; have limited access to high quality child care programs; and have fewer opportunities to participate in extracurricular activities after school and on the weekends, such as sports and recreation programs, clubs, and lessons such as music and computers.³⁴

Children of color and children of immigrants are more likely to grow up poor.⁵ Single parenthood, low educational attainment, part-time or no employment and low wages of parents place children at risk of being poor.⁶

The 2004 federal poverty threshold for a family of three with two children is \$15,219 while the poverty threshold for a family of four with two children is \$19,157.⁷ Historically, the poverty threshold fails to provide a complete scope of how the cost of basic goods such as food and housing, taxes, work related expenses, medical expenses and child care affect people's economic well-being. The poverty threshold also fails to account for increased expenses that occur as family size increases. According to the 2003 Rhode Island Standard of Need developed by the Poverty Institute, a family of three needs to make \$23,000 a year with the use of child care subsidies and RlKe Care to make ends meet. Likewise, a family of four with two children needs to make \$28,080 a year with the use of child care subsidies and RlKe Care to meet their basic needs.⁸

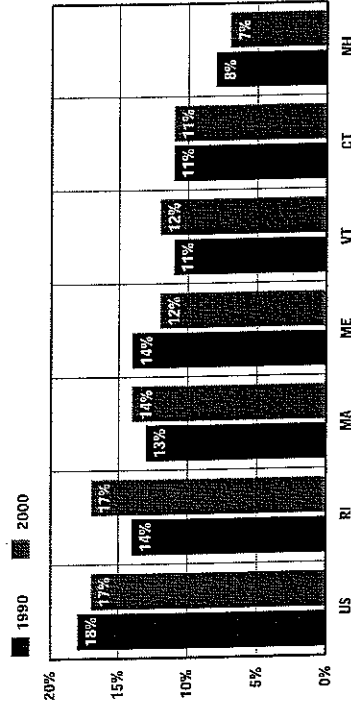
Children in Poverty

	1990	2000
RI	14%	17%
US	18%	17%
National Rank*		30th
New England Rank**		6th

*1st is best; 50th is worst
**1st is best; 6th is worst

Source: Children at Risk, State trends, 1990-2000 (2002).
Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Children Living Below the Federal Poverty Threshold, New England and the U.S., 1990 and 2000



Source: Children at Risk, State trends, 1990-2000 (2002). Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation.

◆ Between 1990 and 2000 the percentage of children in poverty decreased nationally and in two New England states, Maine and New Hampshire. Rhode Island, Massachusetts, and Vermont all experienced increases in the percentage of children living below the poverty threshold, while Connecticut remained constant. The percentage of children below the poverty threshold in Rhode Island increased from 14% in 1990 to 17% in 2000.⁹

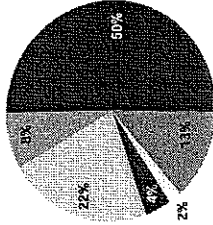
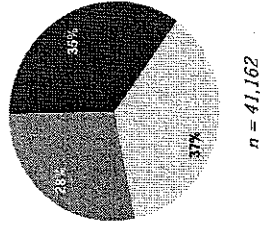
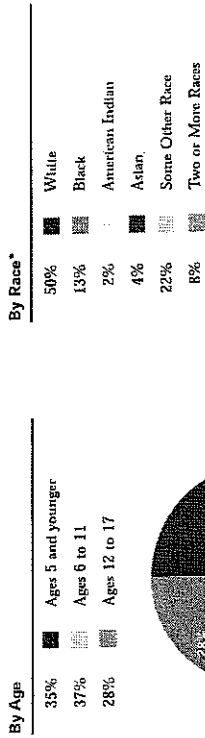
◆ Rhode Island has the largest percentage of Latino children living below the federal poverty threshold (47%), compared to the national rate (28%).¹⁰ Rhode Island has the highest percentage of African American children living below the federal poverty threshold (38%) in New England.¹¹

◆ Family structure continues to be strongly related to whether or not children grow up in poor households. Children in single-parent families are five times more likely than children in two-parent families to be living below the poverty threshold.¹² According to the 2000 Census, compared to the rest of New England, Rhode Island has the highest percentage of families with children headed by a single parent (32%).¹³

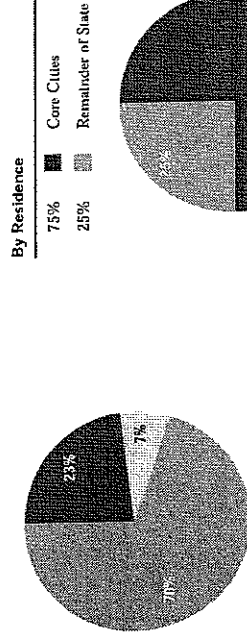
WG-6

Children in Poverty

Rhode Island's Poor Children, 2000



*Hispanic children may be included in any race category. Of Rhode Island's 41,162 poor children, 16,013 (39%) are Hispanic.



** Only includes related children living in households.

Children Living in Extreme Poverty

- ◆ Families with income below 50% of the federal threshold are considered to be living in extreme poverty.¹⁴ The extreme poverty threshold in 2004 was family income below \$7,610 for a family of three with two children and \$9,579 for a family of four with two children.¹⁵
- ◆ In 2000, of the 41,162 children living below the poverty threshold in Rhode Island, nearly half (48%) lived in extreme poverty. In total, 8% (19,773) of all children in Rhode Island lived in extreme poverty.¹⁶
- ◆ Children who live in deep, long-term poverty experience poor health outcomes, such as child asthma and malnutrition, as a result of their family's income status.¹⁷

Young Children Under Age 6 in Poverty in Rhode Island

- ◆ Research shows that increased exposure to risk factors associated with poverty obstruct children's emotional and intellectual development. Risk factors associated with poverty include: inadequate nutrition, environmental toxins, maternal depression, trauma and abuse, lower quality child care and parental substance abuse.¹⁸
- ◆ In 2000, 19% (14,548) of Rhode Island children under 6 were living below the poverty threshold, compared to 18% nationally.¹⁹ Of these children, 7,230 (10%) were extremely poor.²⁰
- ◆ In Newport (22.6%), Providence (22.5%), Central Falls (20.6%) and Woonsocket (19.9%), one in five children under age 6 lived in extreme poverty.²¹
- ◆ As of December 1, 2004 there were 5,468 children under age 3 and 4,470 children ages 3 to 5 in families receiving cash assistance from the Family Independence Program. Of all children under 18 in the Family Independence Program, 47% are age 6 or under.²²

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census 2000, Summary File 3. Core cities are Central Falls, Newport, Pawtucket, Providence, West Warwick and Woonsocket.

Children in Poverty

Building Blocks of Economic Security

Income Supports

Income supports include: the FIP Earned Income Disregard, Food Stamps, the Earned Income Tax Credit, child care subsidies, health care subsidies and Energy Assistance programs. Income supports help to ensure that low-income working families have adequate resources to meet their basic needs.²³

Access to Health Care

Many workers in low-wage jobs are often not offered affordable employer-sponsored health insurance. Access to health insurance improves the likelihood of having a regular and affordable source of health care.²⁴

Affordable Quality Child Care

The quality and stability of the child care setting is critical to a parent's ability to work and to the child's development.²⁵ Child care costs represent a significant part of the budget of low-income families and are associated with a mother's refusal or termination of employment.²⁶

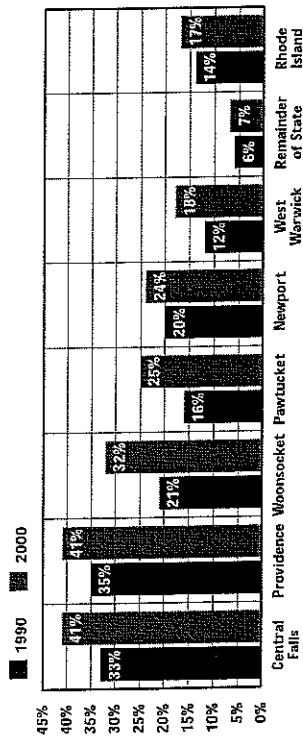
Affordable Housing

Stable housing is a critical requirement for job retention and performance.²⁷ In 2003, the average rent for a two bedroom apartment in Rhode Island was \$1,032 more than double the amount that is considered affordable for a poor family of three.²⁸ The high cost of utilities can make finding and keeping affordable housing more difficult.

Educational Attainment

Low-income workers are nearly three times more likely not to have finished high school.²⁹ Individuals with higher education generally have more job opportunities, higher wages and greater job security than those with lower levels of education.³⁰

Child Poverty Rates, 1990 and 2000,
Core Cities, Remainder of State and Rhode Island



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 1990 and 2000, Summary File 3.

- ◆ Rhode Island's child poverty rate increased from 14% to 17% over the decade of the 1990s. The child poverty rate increased in each of the core cities between 1990 and 2000.³¹
- ◆ Rhode Island KIDS COUNT defines core cities as those communities in which 15% or more of the children live in families with income below the federal poverty threshold. Three-quarters (75%) of Rhode Island's poor children live in one of the six core cities.³²
- ◆ Because of increases in child poverty between 1990 and 2000, West Warwick is now a core city, with 18% of children living in poverty.³³ Providence now has the third highest child poverty rate (41%) in the U.S. among cities with a population of 100,000 or more.³⁴

Children in Poverty

Children Living Below the Federal Poverty Threshold, Rhode Island, 2000

CITY/TOWN	CHILDREN UNDER 6 LIVING IN EXTREME POVERTY		CHILDREN UNDER 6 LIVING BELOW POVERTY		CHILDREN UNDER 18 LIVING IN EXTREME POVERTY		CHILDREN UNDER 18 LIVING BELOW POVERTY	
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Barrington	0	0	23	1.9%	41	1%	127	2.7%
Bristol	66	4.8%	157	11.4%	184	4.2%	436	10.0%
Burrillville	54	5.3%	80	7.9%	139	3.5%	236	6.0%
Central Falls	357	20.6%	740	42.7%	1,146	21.2%	2,210	40.9%
Charlestown	2	<1%	18	3.7%	10	1%	78	4.7%
Coxeter	32	1.4%	149	6.4%	146	1.8%	481	5.9%
Cranston	161	3.2%	437	8.6%	605	3.7%	1,496	9.1%
Cumberland	41	1.6%	89	3.6%	65	1%	237	3.1%
East Greenwich	39	4.2%	57	6.1%	76	2.1%	147	4.1%
East Providence	214	6.9%	452	14.5%	557	5.4%	1,126	10.8%
Exeter	50	11.8%	69	16.3%	93	6.2%	112	7.5%
Foster	0	0	0	NA	0	NA	32	2.9%
Gloster	17	2.6%	37	5.7%	112	4.2%	178	6.7%
Hopkinton	0	0	55	8.9%	8	<1%	115	5.9%
Johnston	0	0	0	NA	17	1.4%	17	1.4%
Johnston	69	3.6%	183	9.5%	191	3.3%	527	9.0%
Lincoln	39	2.9%	76	5.6%	142	2.8%	328	6.5%
Little Compton	8	3.5%	8	3.5%	8	1.0%	8	1.0%
Middletown	16	1.1%	70	5.0%	428	3.0%	264	6.2%
Narragansett	25	3.3%	50	6.5%	59	2.2%	235	8.6%
New Shoreham	1	1.6%	3	4.8%	12	6.4%	19	10.2%
Newport	413	22.6%	628	34.3%	773	14.9%	1,267	24.4%
North Kingstown	153	7.1%	239	11.1%	375	5.5%	663	9.7%
North Providence	85	4.8%	212	12.0%	271	4.7%	579	10.1%
North Smithfield	45	6.3%	45	6.3%	58	2.5%	72	3.0%
Pawtucket	824	14.1%	1,711	29.2%	2,195	12.2%	4,542	25.3%
Portsmouth	34	2.7%	63	5.0%	49	1.2%	118	2.8%
Providence	3,252	22.5%	6,137	42.5%	8,846	19.9%	18,045	40.5%
Richmond	17	2.4%	17	2.4%	60	3.0%	82	4.2%
Scituate	8	1.1%	30	4.2%	18	1%	113	4.3%
Smithfield	11	1.0%	11	1.0%	47	1.2%	153	3.9%
South Kingstown	5	<1%	82	4.6%	120	2.0%	324	5.3%
Tyverton	14	1.6%	48	5.4%	48	1.4%	92	2.8%
Warren	41	5.2%	60	7.6%	136	5.6%	205	8.4%
Warwick	126	2.2%	386	6.8%	410	2.2%	1,243	6.7%
West Greenwich	0	0	18	3.7%	0	NA	40	2.1%
West Warwick	239	10.6%	606	26.8%	462	7.0%	1,186	18.1%
Westerly	0	0	141	8.0%	105	2.0%	534	10.0%
Woonsocket	772	19.9%	1,361	35.0%	2,061	18.8%	3,494	31.8%
Core Cities	5,857	19.5%	11,183	37.3%	15,483	17.1%	30,744	33.9%
Remainder of State	1,373	3.0%	3,365	7.3%	4,290	2.8%	10,418	6.8%
Rhode Island	7,230	9.5%	14,548	19.2%	19,773	8.1%	41,162	16.9%

Table 8.

Source of Data for Table/Methodology
Data are from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census 2000, Summary File 3, P87 and PCT50. The data include the poverty rate for all children for whom poverty was determined, including related children and unrelated children living in the household. In the past this table has reflected the poverty rate for only related children under 18 from Census 2000, Summary File 3, PCT52.

Children under 18 living in extreme poverty are those living in households with income below 50% of the federal poverty threshold.

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(continued on page 145)

Plight of the impoverished; [All Edition]**The Providence Journal.** Providence, R.I.: Sep 26, 2005. pg. A.15**Abstract** (Document Summary)

Of course, poverty figures have critics on all sides. Conservatives complain that they leave important forms of wealth, such as employee and public benefits, unmeasured. Liberals, for their part, argue that the poverty line is unrealistically low, and ignores the true cost of living. However valid the criticisms, though, it is nevertheless disturbing to see the numbers increasing.

Of special concern is the number of children in poverty -- about a third of the overall total. In Rhode Island, their plight has taken on new urgency. In 2003, 16.7 percent of Rhode Island's youngsters were living in poverty. But last year the rate leaped to 21 percent, bounding past the national child-poverty rate of 18.4 percent.

Full Text (372 words)*Copyright Providence Journal/Evening Bulletin Sep 26, 2005*

The most desperate of the Gulf hurricane victims have tended to be the poor. Images of the lost and stranded have pointed beyond the natural disaster itself to the largely hidden struggle that is the lot of so many low-income Americans.

Last month, the Census Bureau released 2004 data showing 1.1 million more Americans in poverty compared to the year before. That brought the total of impoverished Americans to 37 million -- the fourth straight year in which the numbers had increased. (What would be the impact of immigration on those numbers?)

Of course, poverty figures have critics on all sides. Conservatives complain that they leave important forms of wealth, such as employee and public benefits, unmeasured. Liberals, for their part, argue that the poverty line is unrealistically low, and ignores the true cost of living. However valid the criticisms, though, it is nevertheless disturbing to see the numbers increasing.

Of special concern is the number of children in poverty -- about a third of the overall total. In Rhode Island, their plight has taken on new urgency. In 2003, 16.7 percent of Rhode Island's youngsters were living in poverty. But last year the rate leaped to 21 percent, bounding past the national child-poverty rate of 18.4 percent.

Rhode Island does a fairly good job of providing health care for these youngsters, especially in comparison with other states. But these numbers mean that the state is looking at significant investments, especially in education, if it hopes to keep its economy on a sound footing.

With the images of hurricane-stricken areas fresh in our minds, now is a good time to consider ways of helping a broad spectrum of working families. After all, although the economy grew in 2004, median household income remained flat, at about \$44,000. Productivity is up, but the gains have been plowed largely into profits, rather than wages.

One example: Instead of continuing its push for tax breaks benefiting the well-off (repeal of the estate tax, for instance), Congress might consider lifting the minimum wage, which remains at \$5.15 an hour.

Putting Katrina and Rita's displaced workers back on the job is crucial to weathering the disasters. But recognizing that so many had already been struggling is equally crucial.

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U.S. Census Bureau

American FactFinder



United States and States
R2001. Median Household Income (In 2004 inflation-adjusted Dollars): 2004
Universe: Households
Data Set: 2004 American Community Survey

NOTE. Data are limited to the household population and exclude the population living in institutions, college dormitories, and other group quarters. For information on confidentiality protection, sampling error, nonsampling error, and definitions, see Survey Methodology.

Rank ↓	State ↓	Median	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
1	New Jersey	61,359	60,319	62,399
2	Connecticut	60,528	59,402	61,654
3	Maryland	57,424	55,674	59,174
4	Alaska	57,027	54,372	59,682
5	Massachusetts	55,658	54,813	56,503
6	New Hampshire	55,580	54,414	56,746
7	Hawaii	53,554	50,159	56,949
8	Virginia	51,689	50,315	53,063
9	California	51,185	50,732	51,638
10	Minnesota	50,860	50,125	51,595
11	Delaware	50,315	48,925	51,705
12	Illinois	48,953	47,844	50,062
13	Rhode Island	48,722	47,249	50,195
14	Colorado	48,198	45,432	50,964
15	Washington	47,659	45,574	49,744
16	New York	47,349	46,601	48,097
17	Utah	47,074	45,627	48,521
18	District of Columbia	46,574	45,371	47,777
19	Vermont	46,543	45,259	47,827
20	Wisconsin	45,315	43,512	47,118
21	Michigan	44,905	44,240	45,570
	United States	44,684	44,470	44,898
22	Nevada	44,646	42,935	46,357
23	Wyoming	44,275	42,581	45,969
24	Georgia	43,037	42,353	43,721
25	Pennsylvania	42,941	42,335	43,547
26	Ohio	42,240	41,139	43,341
27	Indiana	42,195	41,405	42,985
28	Maine	42,163	41,056	43,270
29	Arizona	41,995	41,248	42,742
30	Oregon	41,794	40,761	42,827
31	Texas	41,759	41,268	42,250
32	Nebraska	41,657	41,016	42,298
33	Kansas	41,638	40,873	42,403
34	Missouri	41,473	40,465	42,481
35	Iowa	41,350	40,398	42,302
36	Florida	41,236	40,674	41,798
37	Idaho	39,934	37,915	41,953
38	South Carolina	39,837	38,176	41,498
39	North Dakota	39,447	38,235	40,659
40	North Carolina	39,428	37,655	41,201
41	Tennessee	38,794	37,626	39,962
42	South Dakota	38,472	37,068	39,876
43	Alabama	36,709	35,542	37,876
44	New Mexico	36,043	33,903	38,183
45	Oklahoma	35,357	34,665	36,049

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Rank	State	Median	Lower Bound	Upper Bound
46	Kentucky	35,269	34,213	36,325
47	Montana	35,239	33,613	36,865
48	Louisiana	35,110	34,243	35,977
49	Arkansas	32,983	32,213	33,753
50	Mississippi	31,642	30,668	32,616
51	West Virginia	31,504	29,846	33,162

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey

Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. The degree of uncertainty for an estimate arising from sampling variability is represented through the use of a confidence interval. The interval shown here is a 90 percent confidence interval. The stated range can be interpreted roughly as providing a 90 percent probability that the interval defined by the lower and upper bounds contains the true value. In addition to sampling variability, the ACS estimates are subject to nonsampling error (for a discussion of nonsampling variability, see Accuracy of the Data). The effect of nonsampling error is not represented in these tables.

Explanation of Symbols:

1. An '*' entry in the lower and upper bound columns indicates that too few sample observations were available to compute a standard error and thus the lower and upper bounds. A statistical test is not appropriate.
2. An '**' entry in the lower and upper bound columns indicates that no sample observations were available to compute a standard error and thus the lower and upper bounds. A statistical test is not appropriate.
3. An '-' entry in the estimate column indicates that no sample observations were available to compute an estimate.
4. An '-' following a median estimate means the median falls in the lowest interval of an open-ended distribution.
5. An '+' following a median estimate means the median falls in the upper interval of an open-ended distribution.
6. An '***' entry in the lower and upper bound columns indicates that the median falls in the lowest interval or upper interval of an open-ended distribution. A statistical test is not appropriate.
7. An '*****' entry in the lower and upper bound columns indicates that the estimate is controlled. A statistical test is not appropriate.
8. An 'N' entry in the estimate, lower bound, and upper bound columns indicates that data for this geographic area cannot be displayed because the number of sample cases is too small.