

Native Americans

IN RHODE ISLAND

2015



This report provides information about major health indicators for the Native American population in Rhode Island. Native Americans are defined as individuals with origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintain tribal affiliation or community attachment. A white person is defined as a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.

This report presents data on population demographics, socio-economic characteristics, maternal and child health, behavioral risk factors, access to health care, infectious disease, and the leading causes of death among Native American Rhode Islanders, compared to whites and to the state as a whole. There is limited data on Native Americans, which makes it difficult to interpret some of the results.

Please note that for some data sets, race and ethnicity status are based on self-identification. The tables present point estimates, which should not be used to imply statistical significance.

Population Demographics

According to the 2011-2013 American Community Survey 3-year estimate, there are 4,895 Native Americans in Rhode Island, making up 0.5% of the state's population. The median age for the Native American population is 37.2 years, while the state median age is 39.7 years. Nearly 89% of the Native American population is 65 years of age or younger, while 85% of the state population is 65 years of age or younger.

Socioeconomic Characteristics

The following are socioeconomic characteristics of Rhode Island's Native American population. These characteristics are a few of the social determinants that can have a profound effect on an individual's health.

- The percentage of Native Americans living in poverty is three times that of whites and the state as a whole.
- Native Americans have a higher percentage of unemployment than whites and state as a whole.
- The median household income for Native Americans is \$21,476, roughly \$34,000 less than the state median household income and \$39,000 less than the white median household income.
- Only 18.6% of Native Americans own their housing unit, compared to 64.7% of the white population.

TABLE A: POPULATION DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

	NATIVE AMERICAN ¹	WHITE ¹	STATE
Median age	37.2	43.1	39.7
Percentage of population younger than 18 years	23.5	18.3	20.6
Percentage of population age 65 years or older	11.3	17.2	15.0
Percentage of population born in another country	+	7.3	13.2
Percentage of population speaking only English at home*	+	87.1	78.9

Source: US Bureau of the Census, 2011-2013 American Community Survey 3-Year estimates

¹ Hispanic ethnicity may be included in racial category

*Population 5 years and older

+Sample too small for meaningful analysis

TABLE B: SOCIO-ECONOMIC DATA

	NATIVE AMERICAN ¹	WHITE ¹	STATE
Percentage of children living in poverty (<18 years old) ³	54.0	14.0	20.2
Percentage of population living in poverty ²	42.2	11.3	14.4
Percentage of population that is unemployed ²	26.0	8.6	9.7
Median household income ²	\$21,476	\$60,140	\$55,675
Percentage of population that owns their housing unit ²	18.6	64.7	60.2

Sources: ²US Bureau of the Census, 2011-2013 American Community Survey 3-year estimates

³2014 Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Factbook

¹ Hispanic ethnicity may be included in racial category



Maternal and Child Health

Native American maternal and child health data presented in Table C must be interpreted with caution as estimates are considered statistically unreliable due to small sample size.

Youth Behavioral Risk

- A higher percentage of Native American youth report not getting the recommended physical activity, compared to whites and state as a whole.
- Native American youth are more likely to never or rarely wear their seatbelt, compared to whites and the state as a whole.
- Native American youth are more likely to have taken a prescription drug that was not prescribed to them, compared to whites and the state as a whole.

Adult Behavioral Risk

- A lower percentage of Native Americans consume five or more daily servings of fruits and vegetables, compared to whites and the state as a whole.
- Native Americans are less likely to binge-drink than whites and the state as a whole.

Access to Healthcare

- A higher percentage of Native Americans report not being able to see a doctor due to cost, compared to whites and the state as a whole.

TABLE C: MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH INDICATORS

	NATIVE AMERICAN ¹	WHITE ¹	STATE
Percentage of pregnant women with delayed prenatal care ^{2*}	16.7*	10.5	12.8
Percentage of births to mothers with less than 12 years of education ²	31.7*	8.6	13.8
Percentage of infants with low birth weight ^{2†}	10.6*	6.8	7.6
Rate of births to teens ages 15-19 (per 1,000 teens) ²	123.1*	13.4	21.4
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) ^{2‡}	+	5.3	6.6
Rate of children with incarcerated parents (per 1,000 children) ³	22.1*	8.0	13.1

Sources: ²Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, 2009-2013

³2014 Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Factbook

*Delayed prenatal care is defined as care received after the first trimester or no prenatal care received

†Low birth weight is defined as less than 2,500 grams or 5.5 pounds

‡Infant mortality rate is defined as the number of infants who died before their first birthday per 1,000 live births

+Sample too small for meaningful analysis

*Use caution in interpreting result; estimate is considered unreliable

¹ Hispanic ethnicity may be included in racial category

TABLE D: YOUTH BEHAVIORAL RISK FACTOR INDICATORS (YOUTH IN GRADES 9-12)

	NATIVE AMERICAN	WHITE	STATE
Percent of youth who used marijuana in past 30 days ¹	30.2*	26.6	25.6
Percent of youth who engaged in binge-drinking in past 30 days ¹	25.2*	18.5	17.5
Percent of youth who have ever had sexual intercourse ¹	+	38.6	41.3
Percent of youth who smoked cigarettes in past 30 days ¹	17.5*	12.9	11.0
Percent of youth who did not get the recommended physical activity ^{1‡}	84.1	73.3	75.5
Percent of youth who never/rarely wore seatbelt with other driver(s) ¹	13.1	7.0	9.8
Percent of youth who got in a physical fight in the past 12 months ¹	38.1*	19.7	22.6
Percent of youth who were bullied on school property in past 12 months ¹	19.6	19.5	17.8
Percent of youth who ever took prescription drugs without having a prescription for the drug ¹	20.4	15.8	15.0
Percent of high school seniors that graduated high school ²	73.9	83.9	79.7

Sources: ¹ Rhode Island Department of Health, Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2009, 2011 and 2013

² Rhode Island Department of Education, Cohort Graduation Rates, 4-Year Cohort for 2013

‡ Recommended physical activity is 60 minutes, 7 days per week

*Use caution in interpreting result; estimate is considered unreliable

+Sample too small for meaningful analysis

TABLE E: ADULT BEHAVIORAL RISK FACTOR INDICATORS (ADULTS 18 YEARS AND OLDER)

	NATIVE AMERICAN	WHITE	STATE
Percent of adult population who meets physical activity guidelines ¹ [2011 & 2013 only]	43.3*	51.7	49.0
Percent of adult population (age 20+) who is overweight/obese ²	71.4*	64.2	64.7
Percent of adult population (age 20+) who is obese ³	33.7*	26.4	26.8
Percent of adult population who consumes 5+ servings of fruit/vegetables daily (2011 & 2013 only)	15.5	17.4	17.5
Percent of adult population who is a current smoker	35.0*	18.4	18.4
Percent of adult population who binge-drank in the last month ⁴	12.7	18.8	18.3

Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2011-2013

¹ Physical activity guidelines are 150 minutes per week

² Overweight/obese defined as body mass index (BMI) ≥ 25

³ Obesity defined as BMI ≥ 30

⁴ Binge-drinking defined as 5+ drinks for men and 4+ drinks for women

*Use caution in interpreting result; estimate is considered unreliable

TABLE F: ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE AND SCREENING INDICATORS (ADULTS 18 YEARS AND OLDER)

	NATIVE AMERICAN	WHITE	STATE
Percent of adults (<65) years old who reported having no health insurance	21.4*	13.0	17.9
Percent of adults who reported having no person they thought of as their personal healthcare provider(s)	21.1	10.8	14.4
Percent of adults who had no routine checkup within the past year	23.7	20.4	22.4
Percent of adults who reported being unable to afford to see a doctor when needed at least once in the past year	21.6	11.5	14.6

Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2011-2013

*Use caution in interpreting result; estimate is considered unreliable

TABLE G: SELECTED INCIDENCE RATES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES: CASES PER 100,000 POPULATION

	NATIVE AMERICAN	WHITE	STATE
Gonorrhea ¹	+	19.1	36.8
Chlamydia ¹	+	214.7	377.4
Tuberculosis ²	0	1.4	2.4
HIV/AIDS ³	+	4.6	9.1

Sources: Rhode Island Department of Health, Division of Infectious Disease and Epidemiology, 2009-2013

¹ Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) Surveillance Data, 2009-2013

² Tuberculosis Surveillance Data, 2009-2013

³ HIV/AIDS Surveillance Data, 2009-2013

+Sample too small for meaningful analysis

TABLE H: LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH

RANK	NATIVE AMERICAN	WHITE	STATE
1	Cancer	Heart Disease	Heart Disease
2	Heart Disease	Cancer	Cancer
3	+	Chronic Respiratory Diseases	Chronic Respiratory Diseases
4	+	Stroke	Stroke
5	+	Alzheimer's	Alzheimer's

Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Office of Vital Records, RI Resident Deaths, ICD-10 Codes, 2009-2013

+Sample too small for meaningful analysis

Infectious Disease

- From 2009 to 2013, there were no known cases of tuberculosis among Native Americans in Rhode Island.

Mortality

- The leading causes of death for Native Americans in Rhode Island are cancer and heart disease.

Chronic Disease

Although not mentioned in this report, 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 Rhode Island residents and the disproportionate impact on the state's minorities, see the Rhode Island Commission for Health Advocacy and Equity Legislative Report, 2015, which can be found at <http://www.health.ri.gov/publications/reports/2015CommissionOnHealthAdvocacyAndEquityLegislativeReport.pdf>



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www.health.ri.gov/programs/minorityhealth



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