



For Immediate Release

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125,000 Rhode Islanders under Age 65 Lacked Health Insurance in 2012

Providence, RI (September 17, 2013) - The share of Rhode Islanders under age 65 without health insurance remained essentially the same as the prior year, according to Census Bureau figures released today. In Rhode Island, 125,000 (14.3 percent) of non-elderly individuals did not have health insurance in 2011/2012. The percentage increase from the previous year is not considered statistically significant.

Nationally, 47.6 million people under age 65 (18 percent) had no health insurance. Rhode Island had the 15th lowest rate of uninsured in the country and the highest rate of uninsured in New England.

The data released today show that the majority of Rhode Islanders (62.6 percent) continue to access coverage at work. Close to one in five (18.4 percent) Rhode Islanders under age 65 were insured by Medicaid. The majority of these Medicaid enrollees are parents and children who are covered through the Rite Care/Rite Share program.

Two major provisions of the Affordable Care Act will dramatically reduce the number of uninsured Rhode Islanders starting in 2014, according to Linda Katz, Policy Director at the Economic Progress Institute.

First, 45,000 Rhode Islanders are estimated to be eligible for health insurance coverage through the expansion of Medicaid to low-income adults. Individuals with income below \$16,000/year will have access to the comprehensive health care currently available to low-income children and parents.

Second, starting on October 1, over 44,000 Rhode Islanders who can't get affordable health insurance through their jobs but earn too much to qualify for Medicaid can sign up for coverage for 2014 through the state's new health insurance marketplace, HealthSource RI. Almost eighty

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percent of people buying insurance through HealthSource RI will be eligible for new federal subsidies to help them pay their premiums and many will also qualify for federal subsidies to reduce their out-of-pocket health costs.

“Health care reform means that thousands of individuals and families will have the security and peace of mind that comes with quality, affordable health insurance,” said Linda Katz, Policy Director. “That’s good for our state’s families, businesses, communities, and economy.”

Rhode Island Health Insurance Numbers
*Rhode Islanders under Age 65**

	2009 – 2010	2011 – 2012	Change from 09-10 to 11-12
Uninsured	119,473 (13.4%)	125,029 (14.3%)	+ 5,556 (0.9%**)
Employer-Sponsored Insurance	568,080 (63.7%)	547,810 (62.6%)	- 20,270 (1.1%**)
Medicaid	171,861 (19.3%)	161,081 (18.4%)	- 10,780 (0.9%**)

*US Census recommends using 2-year averages for state-level data because of small sample sizes.

**Change was not statistically significant.

New England 2011 – 2012 Uninsured
*Individuals under Age 65**

	Number	Percent Uninsured	National Rank (1 = Lowest)
United States	47,617,465	18.0%	
Massachusetts	242,875	4.3%	1
Vermont	47,761	9.2%	3
Connecticut	285,753	9.5%	4
Maine	129,292	11.5%	6
New Hampshire	158,527	14.1%	14
Rhode Island	125,029	14.3%	15

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About The Economic Progress Institute

The Economic Progress Institute is a nonpartisan research and policy organization dedicated to improving the economic well-being of low- and modest-income Rhode Islanders. For more information visit: www.economicprogressri.org.