

HEALTH IS MORE THAN HEALTHCARE

Now in its 4th year, RI Life Index further reveals trends in Rhode Islanders' perceptions of their health and well-being

2022 survey results identify some areas of improvement and some areas of stability as the pandemic eased, but many indicators reversed course and trended downward.

Presented in partnership



A TOOL TO ADDRESS HEALTH INEQUITIES

Health is much more than what happens within the healthcare system: It's about meeting basic human needs. The RI Life Index was launched in 2019 to capture Rhode Islanders' perceptions of these social determinants of health and to share them with elected officials, public health advocates, and community leaders. The Index can serve as a driver to build healthier communities throughout Rhode Island and address health inequities.



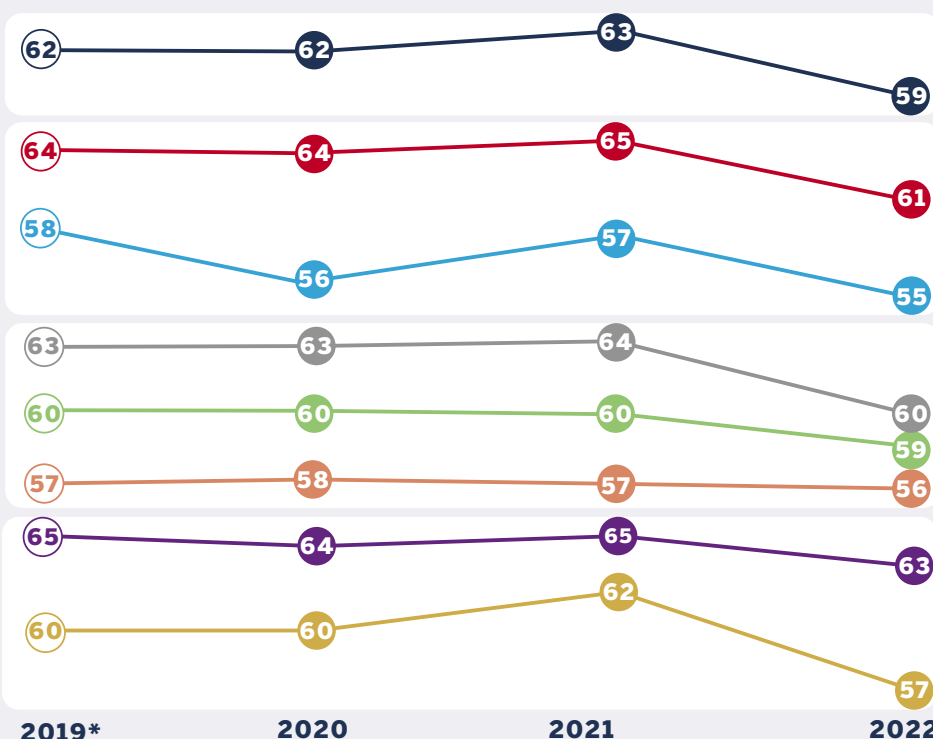
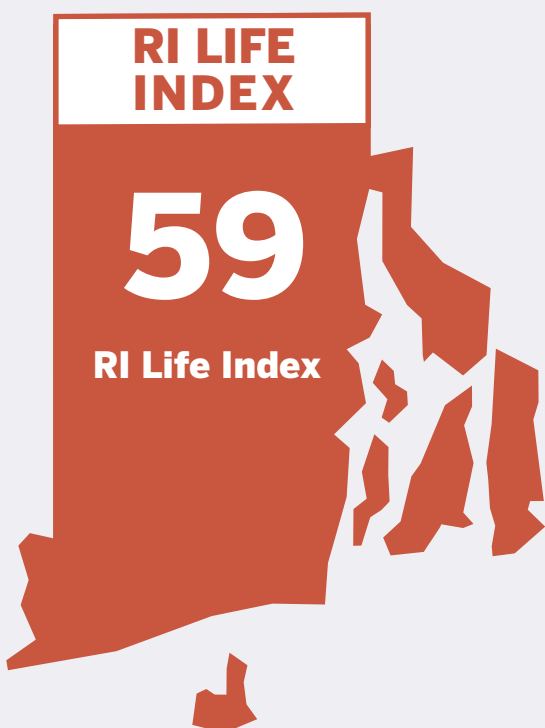
HEARING DIRECTLY FROM RHODE ISLAND'S DIVERSE POPULATIONS

For four consecutive years, researchers at Brown University's School of Public Health, funded by Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island, have overseen a survey designed to gather perceptions of diverse racial, ethnic, and geographic populations in Rhode Island. For 2022, this involved the completion of almost 2,100 interviews with randomly selected respondents conducted by telephone or on-line and 493 interviews conducted by community-based organizations in 14 different languages.

KEY FINDINGS FOR 2022

Below are some highlights from the 2022 survey, as well as trends from four years of RI Life Index data. The Index is on a scale of 0 to 100, with 100 representing a perfect score. Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence and Woonsocket, which have the greatest percentage of children living in poverty. For detailed information, go to rilifeindex.org.

OVERALL RI LIFE INDEX

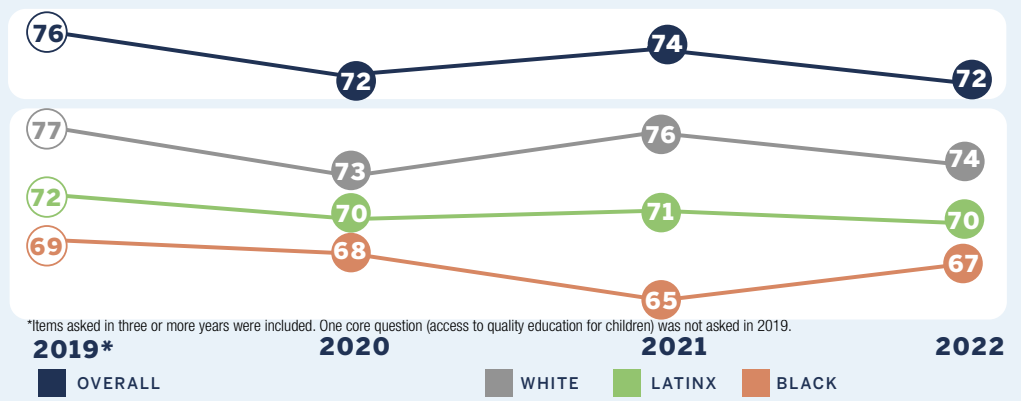
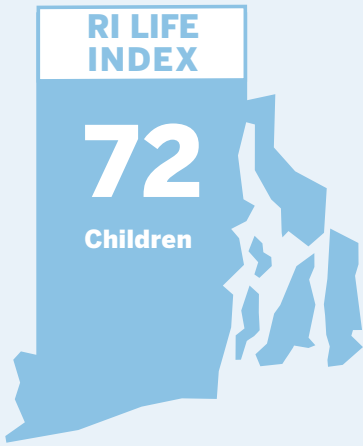


*Items asked in three or more years were included. One core question (access to quality education for children) was not asked in 2019.

■ OVERALL ■ NON-CORE ■ CORE CITY ■ WHITE ■ LATINX ■ BLACK ■ AGE 55+ ■ AGE <55

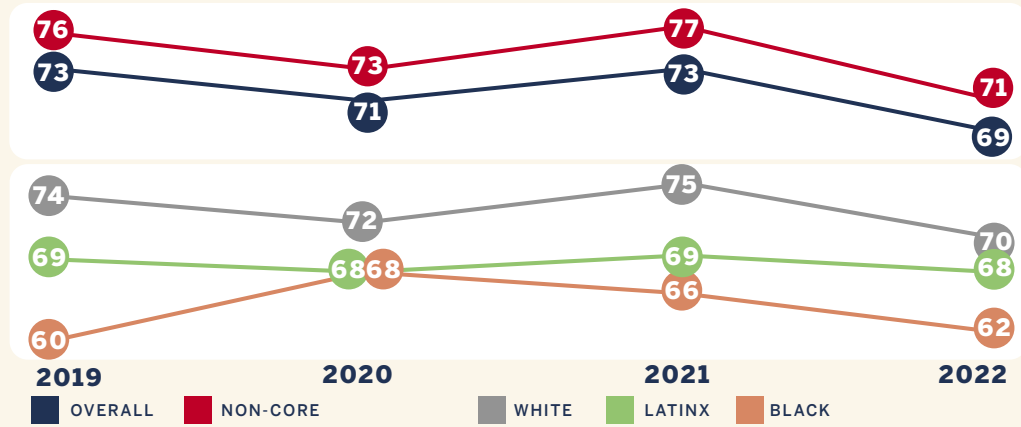
The Index's overall score factors in responses about housing, jobs, education, medical care, transportation, food security, cost of living, and programs for children and seniors. Modest gains made in 2021 — as COVID-19 shutdowns and challenges diminished — gave way to declines in 2022 amid inflation. The drops were less noticeable among communities of color and more pronounced among whites, those under 55, and non-core residents.

CHILDREN



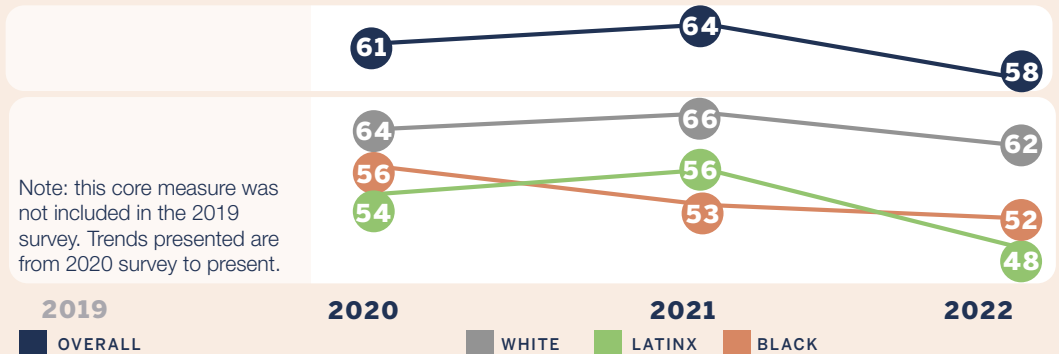
After seeing a drop in 2020 amid the pandemic, positive perceptions of programs and services for children have remained relatively stable, even as school classes, youth activities and programming were restored. There was a slight upward tick among Black respondents, from 65 to 67.

ACCESS TO NUTRITIOUS FOOD



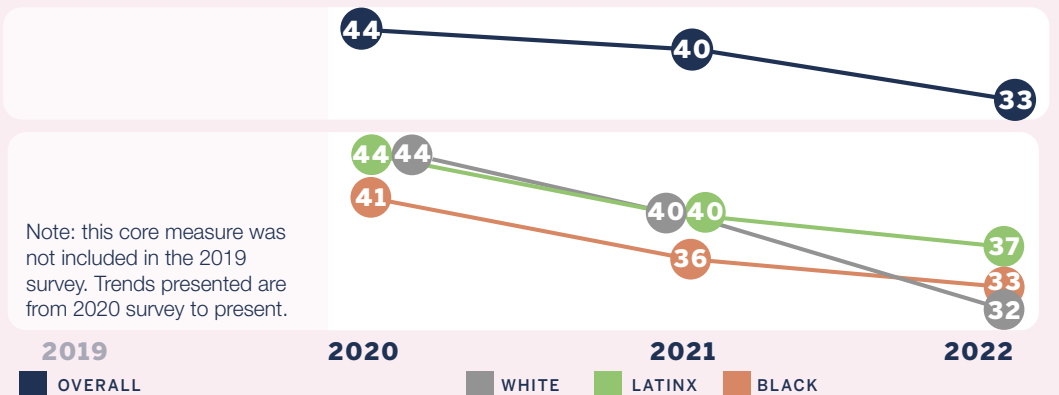
Residents were asked how convenient it was for them to access nutritious foods, an important social determinant of health. Overall, the score for Access to Nutritious Food trended down as food prices rose. For Black respondents, the score dropped 6 points over two years and, in 2022, there was a gap of 8 points compared with white respondents.

ECONOMIC SITUATION



As inflation persisted throughout the year, the overall Economic Situation score fell 6 points to 58 (the declines were smaller for Black respondents). Significant disparities persisted, with Black respondents 10 points below whites and Latinx respondents another 4 points below that.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING



Housing affordability and quality have been a chronic concern among Rhode Islanders and a top priority of RI Life Index Coalition members. But in 2022, the housing market here and nationally continued to heat up, resulting in soaring prices and rents and decreased availability. Amid these challenging conditions, perceptions about housing affordability experienced a 7-point drop. The greatest decline was among white respondents (8) points while the decrease for Latinx and Black respondents was less steep (3 points).

WHO WE ARE

The RI Life Index Coalition seeks to provide thought leadership on viable solutions to health inequities through its annual survey. Coalition members include BCBSRI, Brown University School of Public Health, AARP Rhode Island, Community Provider Network of Rhode Island, The Economic Progress Institute, HousingWorks RI, Latino Policy Institute, Lifespan Community Health Institute, MLPB, Rhode Island Community Food Bank, Rhode Island Department of Health, Rhode Island Kids Count, Rhode Island Foundation, and United Way of Rhode Island.

Visit rilifeindex.org for more information and to see all 2019-2022 data