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Blue Cross
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School of
Public Health
BROWN UNIVERSITY

Amplifying Rhode Islanders' Voices through Actionable Data for the Improvement of Health for All

The RI Life Index, a partnership between Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island (BCBSRI) and the Brown University School of Public Health, is a tool that uniquely amplifies Rhode Islanders' voices and their perceptions of the key factors affecting community health and well-being.

We know that health is so much more than what happens within the healthcare system: it's about essential human needs. The RI Life Index is a high-quality data resource that shines a light on health inequities and serves as a catalyst for collective efforts to build healthy communities for all Rhode Islanders.

"The RI Life Index gives insights into communities based on residents' lived experiences and perceptions. This data reflects the realities of residents, providing valuable information to improve the social, environmental, and economic conditions that impact health and human services outcomes. We look forward to ongoing collaboration with the RI Life Index to enhance the health and well-being of all Rhode Islanders."

Chris Ausura
Director of Policy and
Community Investment,
RI Executive Office of Health
And Human Services



"The need in Rhode Island is greater than ever, and the RI Life Index is an important tool to sound the alarm and mobilize our state leaders to take action. With the cost of living on the rise and more changes to benefits on the horizon, we must act with urgency to feed families today and address the root causes of hunger."

Melissa Cherney
Chief Executive Officer,
Rhode Island
Community Food Bank



"The RI Life Index provides real-time information of pressing issues, like housing affordability facing Rhode Islanders each day. Most importantly, it reminds us that behind every datapoint is a person or family."

Brenda Clement
Executive Director,
Housing Works RI at RWU



ANNUAL RI LIFE INDEX SURVEY

Every year, BCBSRI partners with researchers at Brown University's School of Public Health to lead a survey on Rhode Islanders' perceptions of affordable housing, food security, quality of life and other social drivers of health. The statewide random digit dial survey, conducted in English and Spanish, is designed to ensure that the views of Rhode Island's diverse populations are captured.

The Index is updated annually, extending trend lines going back as far as 2019 and illuminating Rhode Islanders' perceptions by geographic location, race and ethnicity, and age. The information is shared publicly and valued by elected officials, community leaders, and nonprofit organizations committed to improving public health.



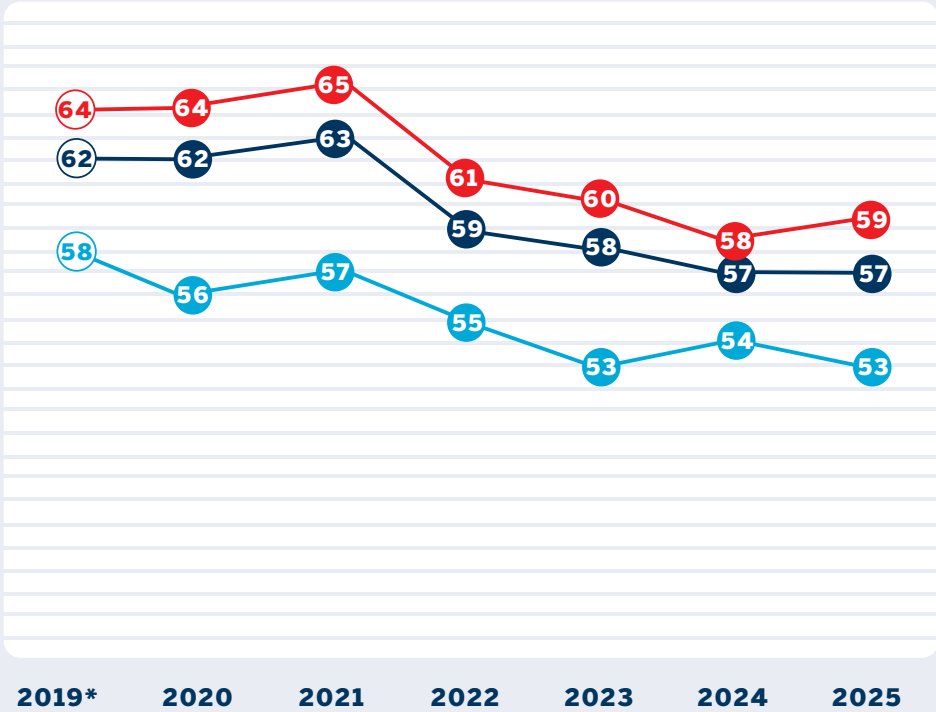
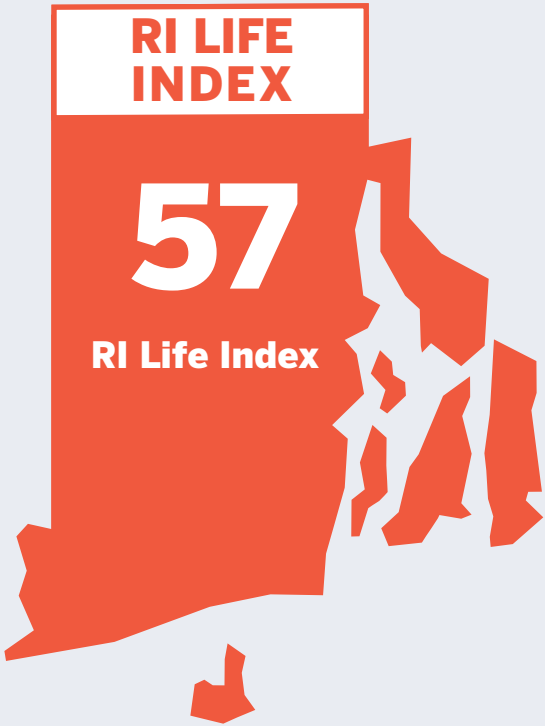
Visit rilifeindex.org for more information and to see all 2019-2025 data.

2025 RI LIFE INDEX

OVERALL

CORE CITIES

NON-CORE AREAS



The Index is on a scale of 0 to 100, with 100 representing a perfect score. On average, about 2,100 Rhode Islanders respond to the survey every year.

*Items asked in three or more years were included. One core question (access to quality education for children) was not asked in 2019.
Core cities are the four places in Rhode Island with the greatest percentage of children living in poverty (Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket).

KEY 2025 FINDINGS

- The overall score, when broken down by geographic location, race/ethnicity, and age, ranged from 48 to 63.
- The lowest score, once again, was Cost of Living (21). Although it remained unchanged overall, the score for Latino/a respondents increased 4 points.
- The next lowest score was Affordable Housing (30), also essentially unchanged from 2024 but down 14 points since 2020.
- Among the meaningful changes in 2025 was a 3-point drop in perceptions about healthcare access to 65 from the prior year. The largest declines for this category were observed in Core Cities** and among Black and Latino/a individuals, ranging from 4 to 5 points.
- There was little year-over-year change in any individual categories: Quality of Community (51), Community Life (65), Access to Nutritious Food (65), Children (71), and Older Adults (64).

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A DEEPER DIVE

Rhode Island Voices builds upon the mission and reach of the RI Life Index by delving deeper into listening to Rhode Islanders. Launched in 2024, the project has enlisted more than 1,000 people—from every city and town in the state—to complete in-depth surveys about their perceptions and lived experiences on a variety of topics. The results help identify urgent needs, develop effective solutions, and drive positive change. In 2025, the Rhode Island Voices podcast was launched to explore these topics with experts and offer concrete ways for Rhode Islanders to get involved and help.

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 AARP Rhode Island, BCBSRI, Brown University School of Public Health, Brown University Health Community Health Institute, Community Provider Network of Rhode Island, The Economic Progress Institute, Executive Office of Health & Human Services, Grow Smart RI, HousingWorks RI, Latino Policy Institute, Legal Key, the Rhode Island Department of Health, Rhode Island Community Food Bank, Rhode Island Kids Count, Rhode Island Foundation, Rhode Island Parent Information Network, and United Way of Rhode Island.