



MENTAL HEALTH in RHODE ISLAND FACT SHEET

The State of Children’s Mental Health in Rhode Island:

- One in five (19.0%) children ages 6-17 has a diagnosable mental health problem¹
- One in ten (9.8%) has significant functional impairment³
- An estimated 34% of RI children who needed mental health treatment or counseling in the past 12 months did not receive it³

The State of Mental Health in Rhode Island for Youth and Adults:

- Rhode Island ranks worst in the nation (except for Oregon) for its rate of mental illness in adults: approximately 22% of adults in the state struggle with a mental health problem annually (a mild, moderate, or serious mental illness)²
- Rhode Island ranks worst in the nation (except for the District of Columbia) for its rate of adults with dependence or abuse of illicit drugs or alcohol: (the prevalence of adult alcohol and substance use in Rhode Island is 10.42%.)²
- Rhode Island ranks #49 in the nation, with only two states that are ranked worse, for youth with at least one major depressive episode in the past year. This means that 12.86% of youth (10,000 individuals) in Rhode Island, age 12-17, report suffering at least one major depressive episode in the past year. A major depressive episode in youth in the last year with severe role impairment places Rhode Island 4th from the bottom of the rankings, with only three states ranking worse²
- Rhode Island ranks #36 in the nation (which means that 15 states ranked worse than Rhode Island) in rankings for youth with dependence or abuse of illicit drugs or alcohol. For this category, 5.52% of youth in Rhode Island report having a substance use or alcohol problem²

Under the Affordable Care Act (ACA):

- More than 100,000 previously uninsured Rhode Islanders now have health insurance².
- There is guaranteed mental health and substance use treatment under private plans and Medicaid’s “Essential Benefits” package¹
- Rhode Island is among the top ten states (#8 from the top) with the highest percentage of adults with mental illness who are insured (approximately 90%)³

¹ 2017 Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Factbook³

² Protect Our Healthcare Coalition of Rhode Island

³ The State of Mental Health in America 2017, Mental Health America