

South Providence Health Equity Zone

02905 Community Assessment Summary

June 15, 2022

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Abbreviations & Terminology

- **FSRI** _ Family Services of RI
- **Backbone Agency** _ The administrative entity of a Health Equity Zone
- **Health Equity Zone (HEZ)** _ Rhode Island's Health Equity Zone initiative is an innovative, place-based approach that brings communities together to build the infrastructure needed to achieve healthy, systemic changes at the local level. Health Equity Zones are geographic areas where existing opportunities emerge and investments are made to address differences
- **SP HEZ** _ South Providence Health Equity Zone
- **SWOT Analysis** _ Survey that collects information on the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats of a particular topic, neighborhood or program.
- **RIDOH** _ Rhode Island Department of Health
- **Chronic Conditions** _ Defined broadly as conditions that last 1 year or more and require ongoing medical attention or limit activities of daily living or both.
- **Social Determinants of Health (SDoH)** _ The conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks.
- **Food Insecurity** _ Defined as the disruption of food intake or eating patterns because of lack of money and other resources.
- **Health Disparities** _ Health disparities are preventable differences in the burden of disease, injury, violence, or opportunities to achieve optimal health that are experienced by socially disadvantaged populations.

South Providence Health Equity Zone

The Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) launched Rhode Island's Health Equity Zone (HEZ) initiative in 2015 to address health inequities in communities across the state. Health Equity Zones are collaboratives of community stakeholders from a multitude of sectors and industries, including residents, who come together to address the most pressing health concerns in their neighborhoods. HEZ collaboratives that represent the diverse makeup of the HEZ community choose efforts and activities based on their own unique needs and priorities.

The South Providence Health Equity Zone (SP HEZ) was established in July of 2021 as an outlet for community stakeholders in 02905 to address the health-related challenges impacting their lives most. Each HEZ identifies a backbone agency, which acts as an administrative centerpiece and convening body for the HEZ collaborative members. The backbone agency for the South Providence HEZ is Family Service of Rhode Island. In the first year, each HEZ completes a community needs assessment that is used to inform its future work and focus. The goal of the community assessment is to assess the social, economic, physical, and environmental conditions impacting the health of 02905 residents and describe the inequities of interest and importance to the community.

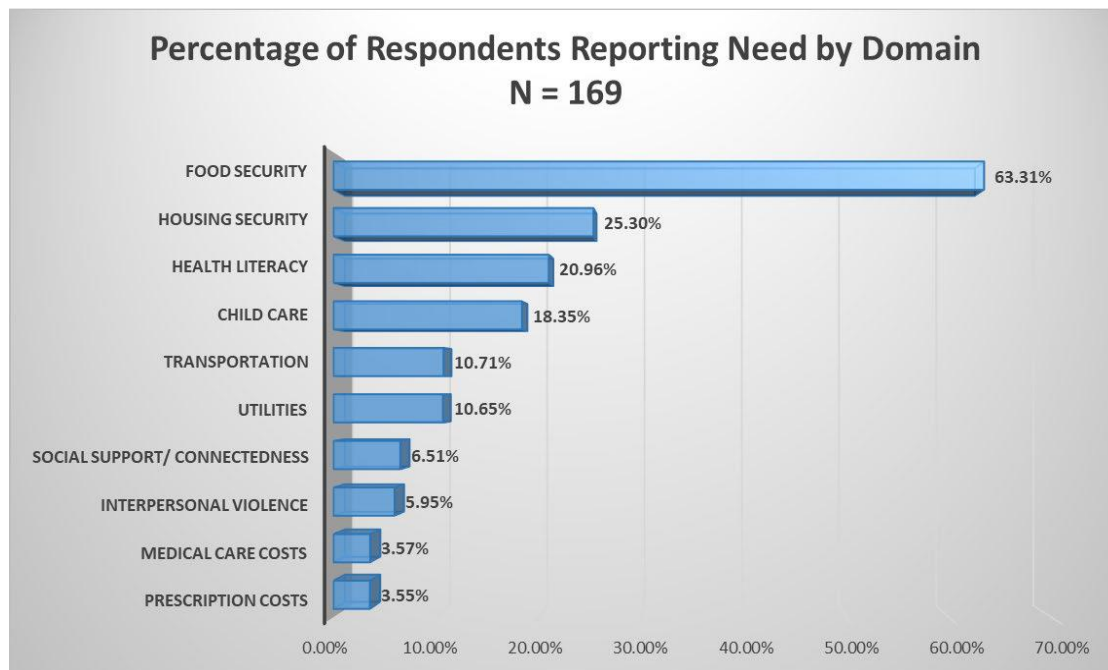
Community Assessment Processes

There were four separate strategies used to collect data for the community assessment.

First was the Social Determinants of Health assessment completed by FSRI community health workers completed between October 7, 2020 and March 31, 2022 by COVID Response Team staff for community members residing in the 02905 zip code. A total of **143 (85%)** of the respondents were female, and **26 (15%)** were male. The average age of the respondents was **53** years. Of those screened, **132 (78%)** respondents identified one or more SDOH needs. Of those who identified one or more needs, **93 (70%)** requested assistance with those needs. The top four identified need domains were as follows:

- Food Insecurity (63%)
- Housing Insecurity (25%)
- Health Literacy (21%)
- Child Care Needs (18%)

Please see below for a visual representation;



The second approach used was a SWOT Analysis. During a Youth Empowerment Conference and Roger Williams Middle School's Community Resource Fair, the SPHEZ Director conducted 31 SWOT Analysis questionnaires in the 02905-zip code. The majority of the responses were completed by parents, students, business owners, and residents of the area. The questions asked were based on a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) Analysis.

During both events, hard copies of the questionnaire were distributed to residents, and completed responses were then transcribed into an Office Form. This report focuses on interview questions that were designed to identify the overall strengths and weaknesses of the 02905 community.

Response Summaries:

Question 1: What are some of the strengths in your community?

The theme identified for the overall strengths in the community are related to *Diversity and Unity* in the neighborhood where they live.

When referring to *Diversity*, below are some of the examples provided in the responses:

- Folks with a diverse background.
- Diversity in culture.
- Lots of good diverse food.

Below are some examples when referring to *Unity* as a theme:

- Community coming together to support schools, churches, business, and families.
- Youth engagement groups organizing events.
- Community working together to implement change where they live.

Question 2: What are some of the weaknesses in your community?

The primary themes identified as a neighborhood weakness were *Lack of Resources, Discrimination and Street Safety*.

For the *Lack of Resources* theme, responses included examples such as:

- Lack of choices and opportunities related to education and health.
- A low number of residents knowing about existing resources in the community.

For the *Discrimination* theme, responses included examples such as:

- Structural inequities and racisms discourage progress in the communities.
- Lack of representation and diversity in professions needed to make change in the community.
- Police brutality among minorities.

For the *Street Safety* theme, responses included examples such as:

- People killing one another.
- Crimes near living buildings (drugs, sex work).
- Gunshots during days and nights.

Question 3: Considering the strengths, where are there existing opportunities for my community to be healthy?

The primary theme identified in this section was *Opportunities to Connect with Other Organizations*. Below are some of the examples provided in the responses:

- Opportunity to local organizations to network with each other on how to make changes in the community.
- Opportunities to have more organizations like SPNA.

- Opportunities for more School Department to work with Local Organizations to improve communities.

Question 4: Considering the weaknesses, where are there threats to my community being healthy?

For overall threats in the community, the themes identified were *Poverty and Street Safety*.

For the *Poverty* theme, the responses included examples such as:

- Access to affordable health and wellness care.
- Low living wage jobs.

For the *Street Safety* theme, the responses included examples such as:

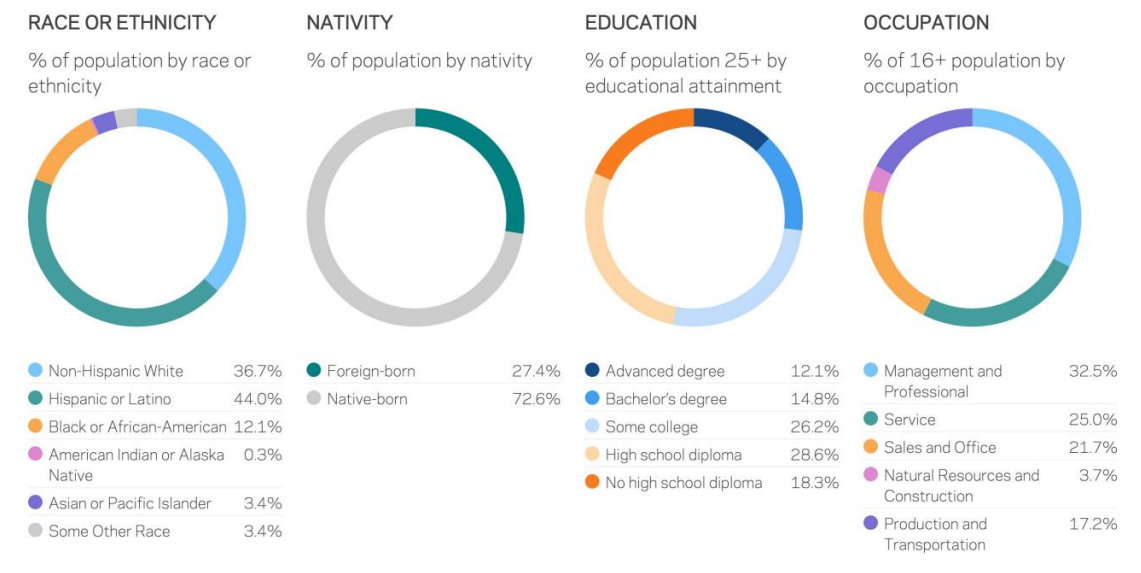
- Police Brutality.
- Violence (shootings and gangs).
- Robbery.

The third method was a literature review of over 25 reliable online data sources. The data ranges from sources specifically focused on the 02905 zip code, Providence as a city or county and Rhode Island as whole. Below is the summary of the information gathered for the literature review.

Literature Review

02905 at a Glance

Zip code 02905 homes a population of 25,223 people with a density of 6,730 people per sq. mile. The border of 02905 stretches from Point street, just north of Rhode Island Hospital, all the way down to the Pawtuxet river, including a small portion of Cranston. It includes the Port of Providence, a major industrial area, and on the west side, abuts the Roger Williams Park. Below is a snapshot of the make-up of residents living in 02905;



The Economic Innovation Group measures the economic well-being at the zip-code level in order to show a detailed view of prosperity across the United States. According to the metric below, 02905 is considered a distressed community.



On the above metrics, 02905 has the following percentages;

- No High School Diploma: 18.3% (National – 12.3%)
- Poverty rate – 25% (National – 13.9%)
- Adults not working – 26.1% (National – 23.5%)
- Housing vacancy rate – 10% (National – 9.4%)
- Median Household Income – \$43K (National – \$60.5K)
- Change in employment in 02905 - 3.7% (National 8.0%)
- Change in establishments in 02905 – 0.6% (National 4.5%)

Background

The RI Department of Health has developed a nationally recognized model to build healthy, resilient communities across the state. This model is known as Health Equity Zones (HEZ), an initiative that is designed to equip neighbors, community organizations, institutions, and businesses to collaborate and create a healthy place where residents can live, learn, shop, socialize, and play. Research shows that implementing programs such as HEZ that focus on working with communities to mitigate poverty and discrimination helps promote an economically healthy environment (RI Department of Health, 2020). In addition, these programs are focused on providing better access to good schools, safe neighborhoods, clean and accessible sidewalks, bike lanes, green spaces, civic-minded residents, and vibrant local businesses. This literature review examines the social factors of residents living South Providence and illustrates how economic stability, neighborhood, built environment, and health are affecting their health.

Social Determinants of Health

Factors such as socioeconomic status, education, neighborhood, physical environment, employment, social supports, and access to health care are central to creating a fair and equitable community. To reduce health disparities and advance health equity, it is essential that communities like 02905 play a role in advancing health equity initiatives. Addressing social determinants of health in a community setting is a complex and challenging task, but is necessary to improve health outcomes among 02905 community members. Existing studies suggest that health behaviors such as smoking, diet, and exercise, as well as social and economic factors, can impact health outcomes (Artiga & Hinton, 2018). A growing number of initiatives are being created to address social determinants of health by focusing on broader social and environmental factors that indirectly influence health outcomes. In the following

sections, existing data has been examined to better understand and assess the gaps, strengths, and needs of the 02905 community.

Demographics

According to Data USA, in 2019, Providence had a population of approximately one hundred and seventy-nine thousand people; among which approximately 85% are citizens. There is a median age of 37 years (Data USA, 2019). Between 2018 and 2019, the population grew from 179,435 to 179,491. The five most prominent ethnic groups in Providence, RI are White (Non-Hispanic 33%), White (Hispanic 22%), Other (Hispanic 16%), Black or African American (Non-Hispanic 14%), and Asian (Non-Hispanic 6%) (Data USA, 2019). According to USC Program for Environmental and Regional Equity (2013), Rhode Island's population has rapidly become more diverse, with its people-of-color population increasing from 7 to 24 percent between 1980 and 2010. Providence ranks as the 16th most diverse community in America. Most of the population growth in RI has been particularly around Providence and other northern cities and it is entirely attributed to people of color (USC Program for Environmental and Regional Equity, 2013). The study adds that, since 1990, the City of Providence and its neighboring cities of Cranston to the south and Central Falls and Pawtucket to the north have experienced large growth in their Latino populations. The African American population also grew and dispersed throughout Providence and its immediate suburban areas. The white population in Providence declined substantially over the past two decades (USC Program for Environmental and Regional Equity, 2013).

Economy

Providence has a median household income of \$45,610 (Data USA, 2019). In 2019, Rhode Island saw many economic gains, such as an increase in the price of home sales, and a decrease in unemployment rates. However, lack of stable housing remains a significant state-wide concern. Housing instability worsened in 2020, when the pandemic and related shutdowns placed many RI families in financial jeopardy. In Providence, it was found that renters with an hourly wage below \$12.75 were likely to face financial/housing instability (Housing Fact Book, 2020). According to the 2020 Housing Fact Book, data analysis revealed a vast financial disparity between homeowners and renters. Figure 1 shows how the median household income in Providence, RI compares to neighboring regions. This indicates that many Providence

households are making approximately \$40,000 per year. This level of annual income is not aligned with the current housing market costs, putting families at risk for housing instability.

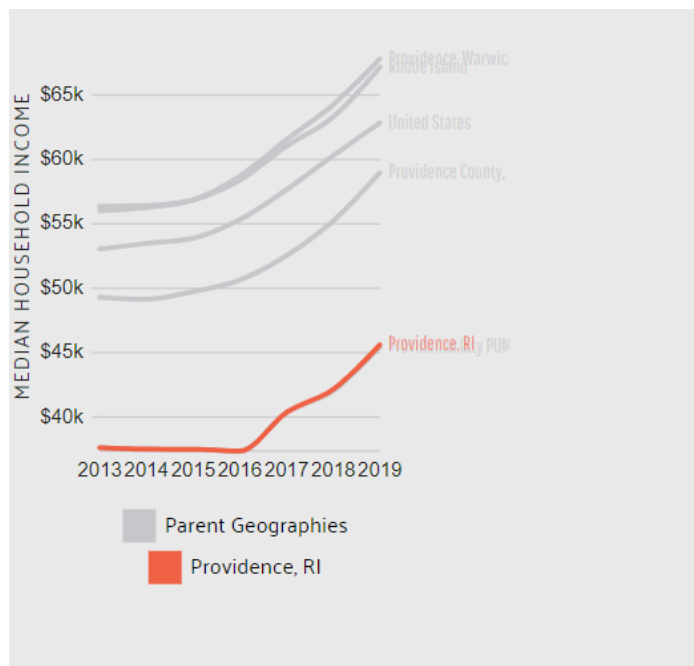


Figure 1

The pandemic exposed existing income gaps among workers, racial groups, and cities. The economic shutdown had a tremendous impact on people who were lower-income and less educated. According to the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training, RI lost 500 jobs in November 2020, and the unemployment rate rose to 7% (RI Department of Labor, 2021). For example, according to the Providence Journal, 13% of small business owners reported having to close their doors if current economic conditions did not improve. In response to this, the City of Providence announced a series of resources to help local businesses impacted by the public health crisis, including \$1.5 million in funding through the Providence Business Loan Fund. Notable recent recipients include Farm Fresh Rhode Island, Yolenis, and Viva Mexico. New loan recipients also receive closing costs capped at \$500, zero interest for up to 12 months, and deferred loan payments for 6-12 months (City of Providence, 2021).

Figure 2 presents unemployment rates in Providence County from 1992 to 2021. In April of 2020, the unemployment rate was approximately 18%. According to the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics (2021), the unemployment rate in the Providence metro area has largely improved, Providence County's unemployment rate in April was 5%, decreased from 8% in March. These rates represent a significant improvement from April 2020's rate of approximately 18%.

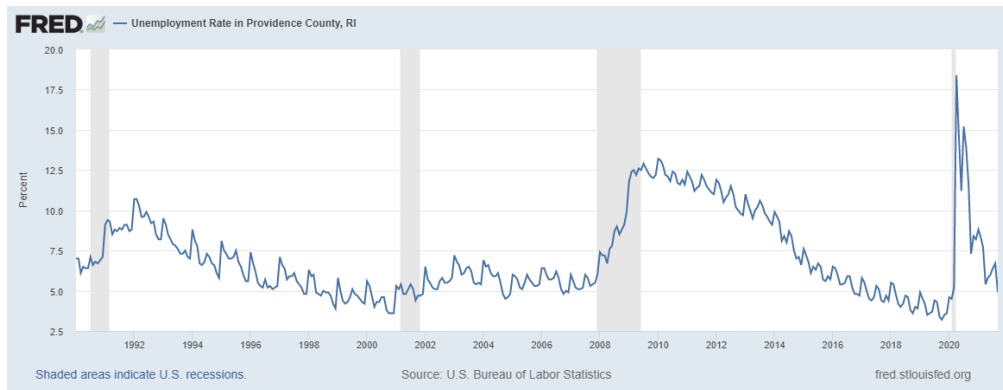


Figure 2

Food Insecurity

A recent report (RI DOH, 2021) found that in 2017, Providence County had the highest estimated rate of food insecurity (13%) compared to every other county in RI. This led to an increase in risk for various adverse health outcomes and health disparities among Providence residents. According to RI Food Bank (2021), during the pandemic Rhode Island experienced the highest level of food insecurity recorded in 20 years. In addition, the 2020 RI Life Index, an initiative of Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island and the Brown University School of Public Health, found that 25% of RI households expressed concern about having adequate food (RI Life Index, 2020).

It is also important to point out that racial and ethnic disparities played an enormous role in food access. Data showed that in RI 36% of Black households, and 40% of Latinx households identified food insecurity as one of their needs, compared to 21% of White Households (RI Food Bank, 2021). To help reduce the gap, there have been many efforts to grow the Rhode Island economy and support healthy families and communities. For example, in 2016, the state began to develop its first comprehensive Food Strategy to help mitigate the problem. The strategy focuses on growing the local food economy to benefit all residents, enhance RI's environment, and celebrate the state's unique food culture and landscape.

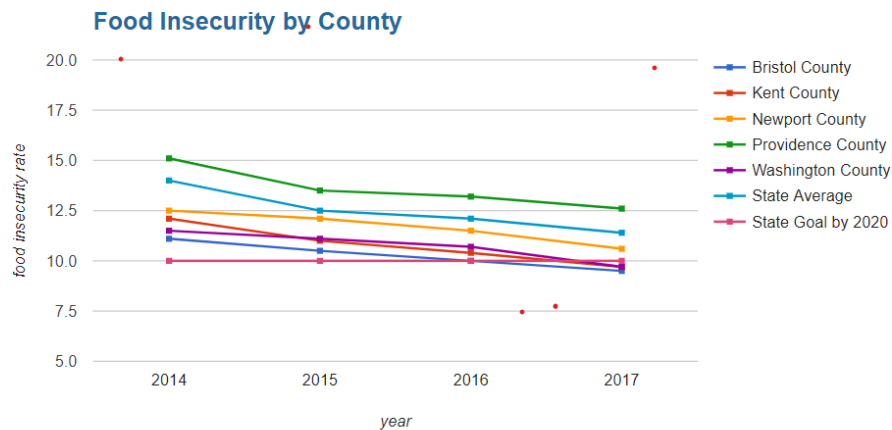


Figure 3

Social and Environment Factors

Addressing the environmental condition of Providence has become a pressing concern as people begin to understand that air pollution from industrial facilities, vehicles, smoke, and other emissions can be inhaled deep into the lungs and spread throughout the body, increasing a person's risk for health conditions like lung cancer, heart attacks, stroke, asthma, allergies, and respiratory infections (America's Health Rankings analysis of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2021). This is a serious health concern for pregnant women, infants, and older adults living in low-income communities. In 2019, Providence leaders reviewed and discussed several options for potential climate action commitment. For example, leaders committed to reduce all emissions by 2030 and become carbon negative by 2030. This decision was made in response to the disproportionate impact of the pandemic and climate change on communities living in poverty.

Climate Pollution

Approximately 70% of Providence's climate pollution is known as greenhouse gas emissions, related to existing energy systems within Providence city buildings. The city depends primarily on burning large quantities of natural gas to produce electricity and heat for buildings. The remaining 30 percent of Providence's pollution comes from transportation. The majority of transportation-related emissions come from burning gasoline and diesel in combustion engines.

In 2016 Mayor Elorza committed to putting Providence on a track towards becoming a carbon-neutral city by 2050 (Providence City Hall). The City has already taken the first steps to meet our 2050 goal. For example, the RePowerPVD program, which was launched in March 2018, is

helping large buildings manage and reduce their energy use. Recently, large-scale local renewable energy projects were implemented, such as the recent expansion of solar energy in Johnston and Cranston. Another example is implementation of community initiatives like JUMP, an affordable transportation program where residents can use and share bikes and electric scooters. Introducing electric buses into the RIPTA system is another goal to reduce carbon emissions in Providence.

Violent Crime

According to Neighborhood Scout, in 2019 Providence had a crime rate that is considerably higher than the national average. The chance of becoming a victim of either violent or property crime for a resident living in Providence is 1 in 28. A recent analysis shows that violent crime occurs at a higher rate in Providence than in most communities of all population sizes across America (NeighborhoodScout ,2019). The chance of becoming a victim of violent crime in Providence; such as armed robbery, aggravated assault, rape or murder; is 1 in 201, which equates to a rate of 5 per 1,000 residents (Neighborhood Scout). To address crime prevention, the City of Providence has created Crime Watch Groups and Neighborhood Associations where neighbors are working together in partnership with law enforcement agencies and local organizations to reduce residential crime and address other community safety issues.

Health

Behavioral Health

According to the R.I. Department of Health, from January 1, 2021- to September 30, 2021, Providence had a 17% increase in opioid overdose-related E.D. visits (RIDOH,2021). In addition, Providence had a higher proportion of accidental drug overdose deaths among people who identify as Hispanic or Latino (34%), compared to Providence County (23%) and statewide (16%) (RIDOH, 2021). The majority of accidental drug overdose deaths in Providence were among individuals aged 25-54 years (66%), similar to the age distribution in Providence county and statewide. Figure 4 shows the number of overdose deaths from 2009-2021. The graph shows that there was a 14% increase in fatal overdose deaths from 2020 to 2021, with Rhode Island recording the highest number of overdose deaths ever in 2021. 2According to the R.I. Department of Health, in 2021, Providence residents saw a 7.5% increase in overdose deaths from 2020 (RIDOH,2022).

Fatal Overdoses in Rhode Island by Year, 2009 to 2021



The current count of 2021 fatalities is **14% higher** than 2020.

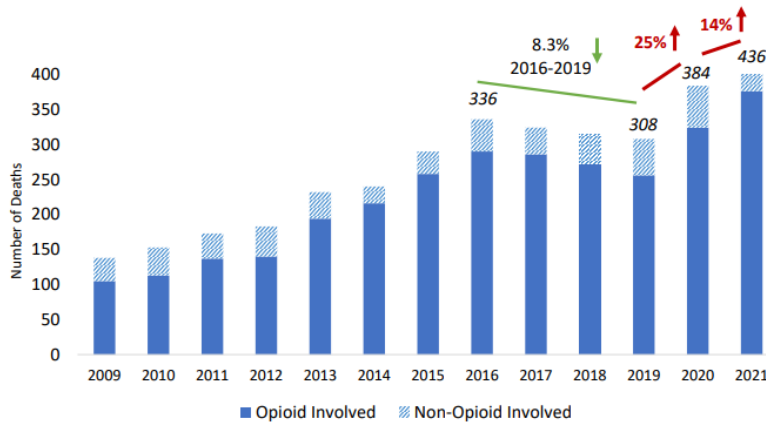


Figure 4

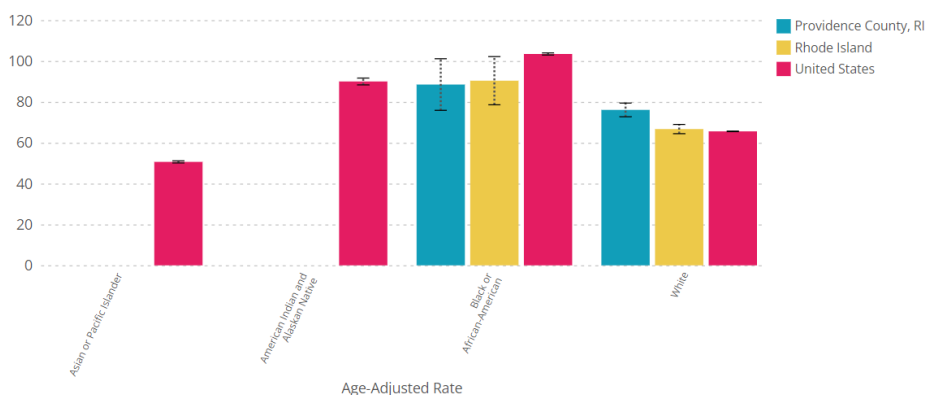
According to National Alliance on Mental Health Illness (2021), as the pandemic continues, health care providers are seeing the highest level of anxiety and depression since March 2020, when the pandemic hit. For example, suicidal ideation among adults experiencing severe thoughts of suicide has increased to an additional 460,000 from 2016-2018 (MHA,2021). The study also points out that the percentage of adults with mental illness who are uninsured has also increased for the first time since the Affordable Care Act. In the United States, approximately 5.1 million uninsured adults are diagnosed with some mental illness (MHA,2021). In RI, close to 4.3% of adults are living with severe mental health conditions like schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and major depression. However, only 47.5% of those adults receive any form of treatment from either the public system or private providers. The remaining 52.5% receive no mental health treatment (Gateway to Mental Health Service, 2021).

Diabetes

According to the RI Department of Health (2020), approximately 79,300 residents in the state know they have diabetes. However, the CDC estimates that 23% of all people with diabetes are undiagnosed; among the RI population this represents an estimated 24,800 undiagnosed residents. There are also an additional 311,200 people at risk for developing diabetes due to their physical activity, age profiles, and weight (RI Department of Health, 2020). A report from Providence County Diabetes Death Statistics in 2018 indicated that in Providence, men are more likely to have diabetes as a contributing cause of death than women. In 2017, roughly 87

men per 100,000 died from diabetes related health issues; for women, the rate was 55 deaths per 100,000 (Providence County Diabetes Death Statistics, 2018). This disparity could be related to a complex set of factors, including differences in behavioral risk factors, access to or taking advantage of medical care, and biological differences. Similar to most diseases, many factors contribute to the risk of contracting diabetes and disparities in diabetes-related mortality. As the graph in the Figure 5 shows, minority groups are more likely to be poor and consequently have a higher chance of lacking access to healthy food, making it more challenging to manage the disease.

Diabetes Death per 100,000: by Race (2018)



Data unavailable for: American Indian and Alaskan Native Providence C...

Figure 5

Hypertension

The RI Department of Health explains that one in three

adults in Rhode Island has been diagnosed with high blood pressure. High blood pressure is now widespread across demographic categories, but risk increases with age, unhealthy weight, and limited social/economic resources. According to a recent report, almost 1 in 4 adults have hypertension, and approximately 24% are caregivers for someone with a health problem or disability (R.I. Department of Health, 2017). In addition, a recent national health study (Saeed, Dixon & Yang, 2020) found that the proportion of certain Hispanic ethnic groups with stage 1 and stage 2 hypertension was more significant than for whites

Conclusion

It is essential to understand the social factors that impact the health and wellbeing of 02905 residents. The goal of this review is to summarize existing findings across various relevant domains that affect the health of residents living in South Providence. Through this review, it was identified that economic factors have had a significant impact on 02905 community members; many of whom either work for minimum wage or lost their jobs during COVID. In turn, food insecurity has become a serious problem in Providence, and is related to many adverse health outcomes and health disparities.

Social and Environmental Factors are also important to consider in the context of health equity. For example, air pollution is becoming a major concern for our communities as it is affecting many pregnant women, infants, and elderly residents living in low income areas. However, the city has taken significant steps to help mitigate climate pollution.

Additionally, Providence has a higher crime rate than the national average, and exposure to violent crime can lead to negative health outcomes. This has led the city to create programs like Crime Watcher Groups and Neighborhood Associations, which works with local organizations and law enforcement to reduce residential crimes and address other issues in the community.

Lastly, this literature reviewed relevant health factors and found from January 1, 2021- to September 30, 2021, Providence had a 17% increase in opioid overdose-related E.D. visits. Providence is a small, but diverse city; however, many community members, particularly in South Providence, are likely to experience poor health outcomes including diabetes and hypertension. These outcomes may be due in part to lack of access to healthy food and culturally competent preventative care.

Strengths of the 02905 Community

Great sense of community & Diverse Culture

Covid-19 Response Team Data Collection (Pre-HEZ data):

During the interviews collected between 1/1/21-03/30/21, residents of 02905 noted that the strength of their community is a Strong Sense of Community, Family, and Longevity. There were also sub-themes like family, friends, and well-like neighbors, longevity, and social connectedness. Many also pointed out that it is a strength to live in a community where many speak the same language, with diverse food choices and cultures. Many pointed out that it is a strength to live in the community where many speak the same language, with diverse food choice and different cultures.

SWOT Analysis

Many noted that it is a strength to live in a community with diverse cultures and families stick together and do activities to help provide resources. In addition, the fact that the community is small allows them to know each other and develop great friendships.

LIT Review

The prominent ethnic groups are: white (non-Hispanic 36.7%), white (Hispanic 44%), Black or African American 12.1%, Asian or Pacific Islander 3.4%, American Indian or Alaskan Native 0.3%, and some other race 3.4%. The research shows that Providence is the number 16th most diverse community in America. Since 1980 there has been a significant growth of the Latinx population and African Americans.

Conclusion: This information tells us that South Providence residents recognize the diversity of their community and appreciate the mix of food, languages, traditions etc. Residents also feel a sense of unity through their own micro community of family and neighbors.

The next step would be to consider how we can leverage and integrate the diversity and unity of 02905 into the HEZ's approach to addressing health disparities.

Health Concerns for the 02905 Community

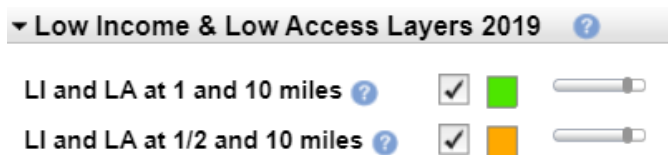
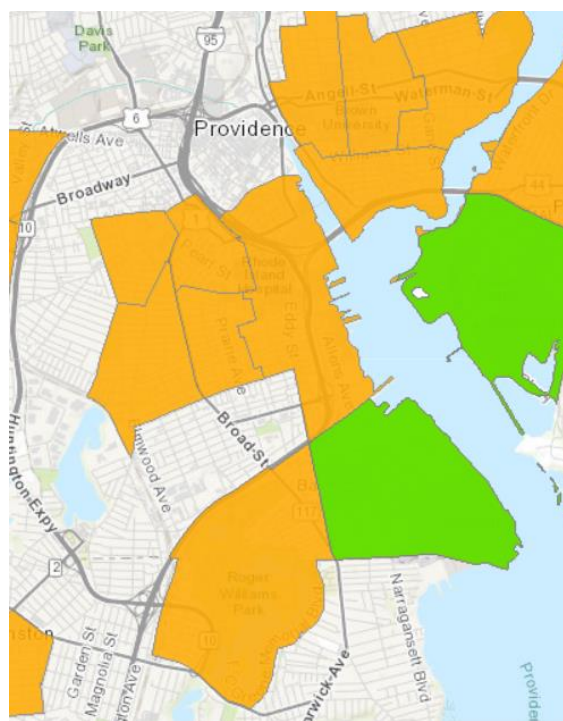
Food Insecurity

SDOH DATA

According to SDOH screening completed from 10/20-03/22, food insecurity is the highest reported barrier for 02905 residents as 107 participants identified that in the last 12 months, they ate less than they should because there was not enough money for food.

LIT Review

In 2017, Providence was reported to have the highest estimated food insecurity compared to any other county in RI. The map below, from the USDA Economic Research Service, used the census tract to highlight areas where the majority of residents were at least 1 mile (Green) or ½ (Orange) away from the nearest supermarket. One can see that the majority of 02905 fits into 1 of these two categories with the Washington Park neighborhood being at least 1 mile away from a supermarket.



Covid-19 Response Team Data Collection (Pre-HEZ data):

During the interviews collected between 1/1/21-03/30/21, many respondents mentioned the need for more grocery stores near where they live. They also noted that there had been an increase in the price of food items.

Conclusion: This information tells us that proximity of grocery stores in 02905 as well as the increasing cost of food are two of the biggest barriers to food security.

Financial & Housing Insecurity

Lit Review

Over the course of the first year of Covid 19, it became clear that the impact of the pandemic on people living in low-income areas was greater than those with greater financial security. In November 2020, RI lost more than 500 jobs, and 13% of small business owners reported closing their businesses. According to the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, the unemployment rate in the Providence metro area has largely improved since the pandemic has slowed.

Housing security since the start of Covid 19 has continue to be a major concern for South Providence residents. In 02905, 53.2% of households spend more than 30% of their monthly income on rent (compared to 41.3% providence wide).The average income for households in Providence is \$40,000, which is not aligned with the current housing market cost. The option often recommended for residents struggling to pay for rent is to apply for Affordable Housing. However, the current waitlist for these units has continued to lengthen as seen below;

Waiting Lists for Affordable housing in Providence – PHA

- Studio (elderly/disabled only): 2-3 years
- One Bedroom (elderly/disabled only): 3-4 years
- Two Bedroom (elderly/disabled only): 5-7 years
- One to Seven bedroom (family developments): 8-10 years depending on bedroom size

SDOH DATA

According to SDOH screening completed from 10/20-03/22, 42 out of 166 respondents reported they were worried that in the next two months they may not have stable housing. In addition, 18 % of respondents reported that challenges in finding childcare make it difficult to work or study, impeding the ability for an increase in financial stability.

SWOT Analysis

Respondents identified income and a lack of resources to promote better opportunities as one of the community's weaknesses

Covid 19 Response Team Data Collection (Pre-HEZ data)

Participants noted income loss and the increased price of goods/housing has worsened poverty. Residents also emphasized the need for better job opportunities and livable income to reduce the unemployment rate.

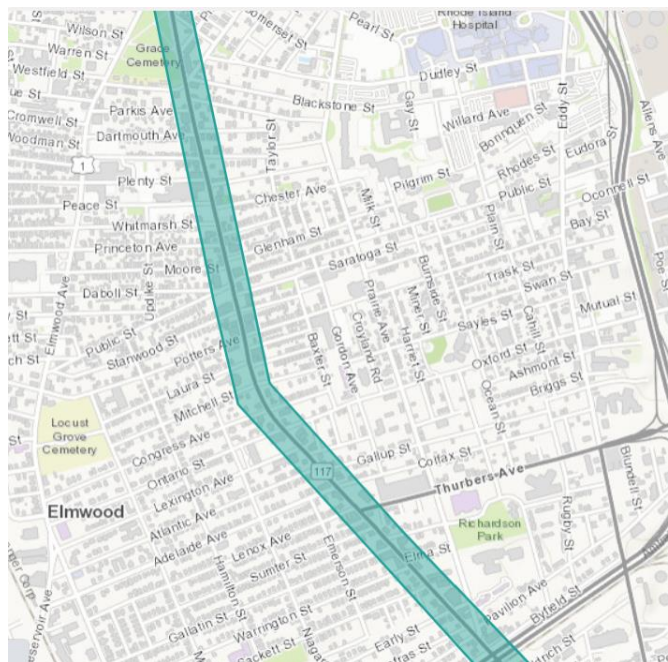
Street Safety, Community Violence, Noise Level & upkeep in 02905

Lit Review

In 2019, Providence had a crime rate that was prominently higher than the national average. An analysis showed that in Providence, violent crimes occur at a higher rate than in most cities for all populations size across American. The rate of becoming a victim of violent crime in Providence is 5 per 1,000 residents.

Traffic and the high density of 02905 was a common complaint mentioned by residents. Broad Street, which runs along South Providence, is a perfect case example of how the traffic and lack of street safety impacts residents.

- 30,000 people live within 1/3 mile of Broad Street (less than a 10 minute walk) and 25% of households do not have a car, which is higher than the statewide average.
- Between 2009 and 2017, Broad Street had the most crashes out of any corridor in Providence, with 104 people walking or biking involved in a car crash between 2009 and 2017. 11 of those crashes resulted in a fatal or serious injury to someone walking or riding a bike.
- According to Census data, 40% of Broad Street community residents today commute via walking, biking, carpooling, or taking the bus.



Covid 19 Response Team Data Collection (Pre-HEZ data)

Respondents mentioned;

- ▶ Speeding and reckless driving, accidents and traffic, noisy cars, and trash in the streets.
- ▶ Safety & Violence: Included responses that mentioned feeling unsafe in the neighborhood due to dangerous people as well as a prevalence of domestic violence in their area. Also noted were shootings, alcohol and substance use.
- ▶ Building Upkeep & Landlords: Included responses such as those that noted things looking old, not taken care of, fixing things that look bad, and old buildings looking unappealing

SWOT Analysis

People identified shootings, guns in young people's hands, violence and gangs as threats.

SDOH Screening

Out of 168 individuals asked SDOH Screening about interpersonal violence, 10 identified being afraid that they might get hurt in their apartment or the house.

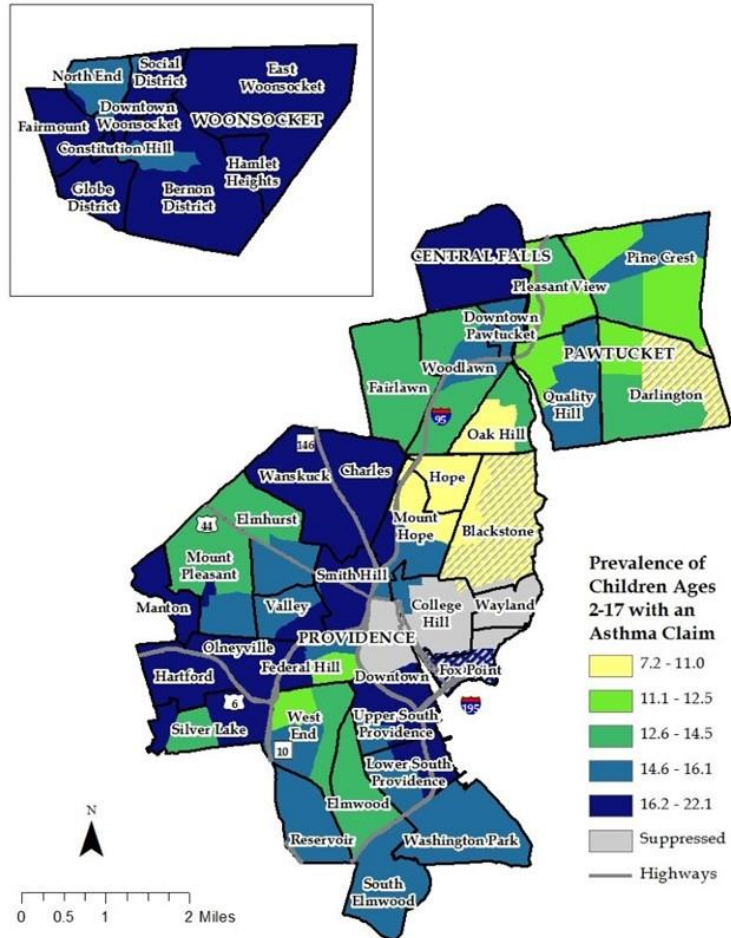
Conclusion: The data shows that violence has impacted many of those living in providence, including 02905. It will be essential to gather information if residents are currently using their local resources to help promote safety in their community.

Environmental Health

LIT Review

In Providence, approximately 70% of climate pollution comes from greenhouse gas emissions and 30% from transportation (burning gasoline and diesel in combustion engines). About a dozen polluters are routinely listed in the Environmental Protection Agency's [Toxics Release Inventory](#) for the city's 02905 zip code. This section of Providence contains a greater number of polluting facilities than any other zip code in Providence County. The majority of the operations emitting these pollutants can be found along the Allens Avenue waterfront – The Port of Providence. They include a hot-mix asphalt plant that emits compounds linked to child development disorders and to cancer, and an oil terminal that emits similar pollutants and other toxins linked to neurological and respiratory disorders. The area is also home to chemical-processing plants. At one facility operated by a packager and distributor of specialty chemicals, some 3 million pounds of chemicals, such as chlorine, ammonium, and formaldehyde, are stored.

What puts residents in 2905 even more at risk for pollutants in the air is the fact that Pawtucket, Central Falls, and Providence have the lowest percentage of tree cover, each with less than 18% of landmass with canopy cover. In turn, pollutants have taken a toll on the health of residents. In Rhode Island, 10.9% of children have asthma, the 9th highest prevalence in the nation with Black and Hispanic children being more likely to visit the emergency room or be hospitalized due to asthma. The correlation between environmental pollution concentrated in low-income areas is clear when you look at visits to the emergency room for asthma. Over 70% of pediatric asthma emergency department visits in Rhode Island are children on Medicaid.



To the right, is a map of Asthma Hotspot Prevalence in Core Cities for children where you can see the clear prevalence of cases in South Providence compared to other locations.

SWOT Analysis

Residents point out that there is an opportunity to create more sustainable and breathable living spaces.

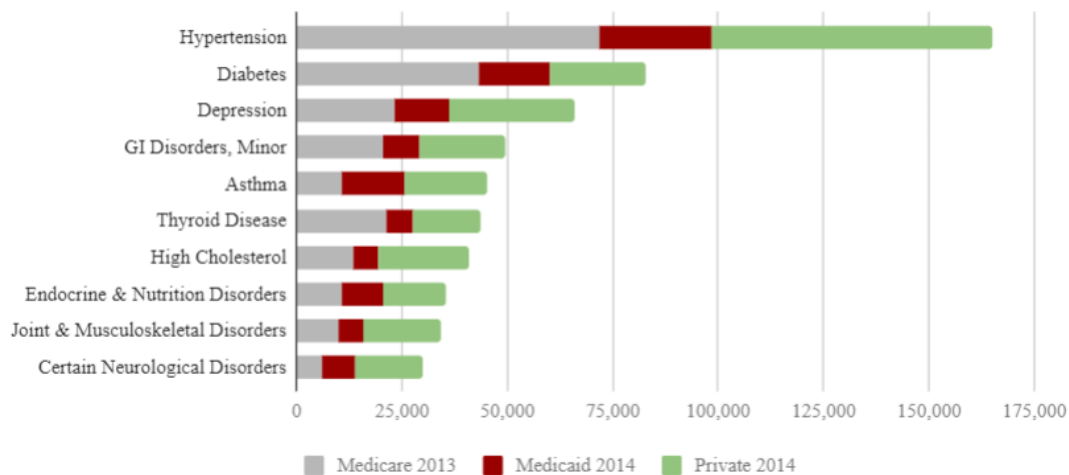
Health Care (Access & Needs)

Lit Review

As the pandemic continues, healthcare providers continue to report seeing high levels of anxiety and depression. On the chart below, you can see that Depression is one of the top chronic conditions effecting Rhode Islanders along with hypertension and diabetes.

Top 10 Most Common Chronic Conditions in Rhode Island

Total Number of Insured Rhode Islanders with Each Condition

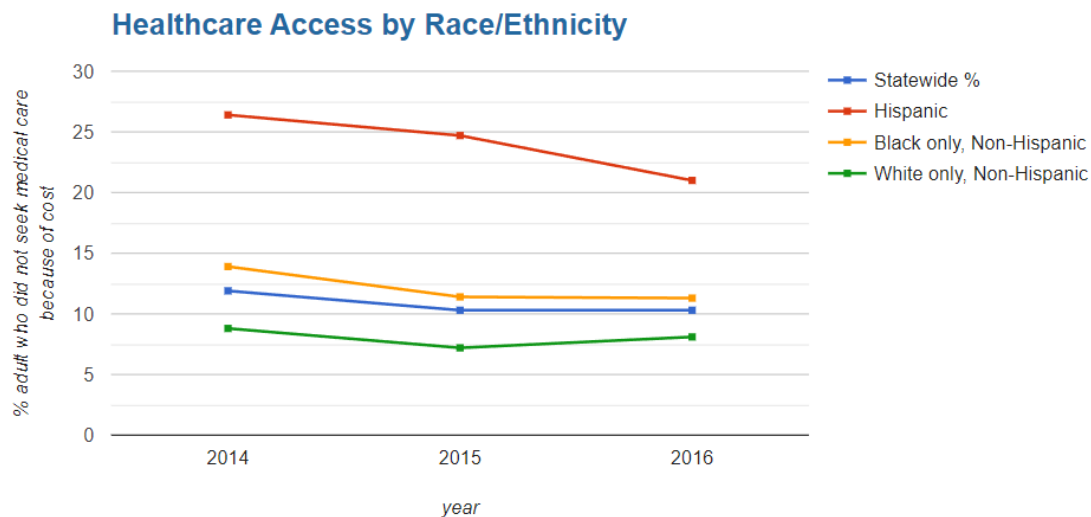


As mental health worsens, so has the occurrence of people self-medicating with drugs. The RI Department of Health noted that from January 1st- September 30th 2021, Providence had a 17% increase in opioid overdose-related E.D. visits. Reports also showed that there is a higher proportion of accidental drug overdose deaths among people who identify as Hispanic or Latino (34%), compare to Providence county (23%).

Another concern related to health care is access. In 2015, there were 278 people to every 1 full-time primary care provider in South Providence. A common complaint from residents has been the challenge in finding a primary care doctor or mental health counseling. For people who do succeed in finding care, the cost and language barriers become an issue. 45% of residents in Rhode Island in 2019 had Limited English Proficiency, making it extremely difficult to complete or understand medical forms or long-term care instructions.

Below is a chart that shows the percentage of adults whom did not seek out medical care do to cost, broken down by race;

Percentage of adults who did NOT seek medical care because of cost



SDoH

Similar to what was found in the literature review, 20.% of respondents reported needing help reading information about their medical conditions

Covid 19 Response Team Data Collection (Pre-HEZ data)

Residents identified behavioral health and social-emotional needs as one of the most pressing needs resulting from the pandemic. Subthemes included depression and loneliness as people noted loneliness, sadness, and isolation blues as some of the needs.

Other subthemes mentioned were social isolation, lack of activities, anxiety, and fear.

- **Depression & Loneliness:** Included responses such as those that noted sadness, isolation blues, and loneliness.
- **Social Isolation & Lack of Activities:** Included responses such as those that noted the lack of positive things to help cope, boredom, and the importance of social lives.
- **Anxiety & Fear:** Included responses such as those that noted anxiety, and fear of going out and getting sick

Conclusion: This information tells us that with COVID, there has been an increased number of overdose E.D visits (especially for people who identified as Latino or Hispanic). 02905, with a diverse population and a significant Hispanic population, is likely to be impacted.

Youth Health

Literature Review

With 35.1% of children in 02905 living in households earning the federal poverty level, the quality of life and health for young people in our community is a concern. One area of concern is mental health and its effect on their education. In State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2021, 29% (31,394) of children under age 19 enrolled in Medicaid had a mental health diagnosis. Of those children with a mental health diagnosis, 18% were ages five and under, 43% were ages six to 12, and 39% were ages 13 to 18. In addition, 42% were females and 58% were males. In terms of physical health, 13.6% of children in Providence are overweight and 22.4% are obese. Physical and mental health without a doubt impact young people's decision making and school performance. In 2019, 42% of Providence's public school students were chronically absent, (Missing more than 15 days of school). Below, you can see a chart of risky behavior at the high school age in Rhode Island, broken down by various demographics;

High School risk behavior by demographic groups, 2019

Tobacco Use	Overall	Black	Hispanic	White	LGB	Straight	Disability	No disability	Male	Female
Ever used e-cigarettes	48.9%	42.4%	42.2%	53.4%	56.3%	49.6%	53.6%	47.6%	46.0%	51.5%
Currently use e-cigarettes	30.1%	18.0%	20.1%	36.4%	37.3%	30.1%	35.2%	28.3%	28.4%	31.2%
Currently use cigarettes	4.2%		4.9%	4.1%		3.4%	6.0%	3.2%	5.7%	2.3%
Use any tobacco product	33.3%	23.0%	25.4%	38.2%	39.4%	33.0%	37.3%	31.5%	32.8%	32.9%

SWOT Analysis

Themes from the survey including mention of “Making Things Better for the Kids”, including responses such as those that noted lack of things for children to do, schools needing more resources, and updating playgrounds.

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