



IFNPAC Q4 Meeting

Interagency Food and Nutrition Policy Advisory Council

Tuesday, December 12th, 2023

9:30 – 11:00am

Rhode Island Commerce

**RHODE
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Agenda

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Approve Q3 2023 Meeting Minutes
3. Update on HEAL Program
4. Update on 2030 State Food Plan development
5. State of the Food System report - RI Food Policy Council
6. RI Food System Preparedness and Recovery Plan – RI Food Policy Council
7. Updates Council Agencies
8. Public Comment

HEAL Program

Randi Belhumeur

RI Department of Health

**RHODE
ISLAND**



SPAN Cooperative Agreement

An overview of grant-year-one strategies and activities under the State Physical Activity and Nutrition funding for RI





Today's Presentation

Provide history and context along with
present state and future state

- **History and Context**

Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity leads the public health effort to prevent chronic diseases at every stage of life by promoting good nutrition, regular physical activity and a healthy weight where people live, learn, work and play.

- **Why it Matters:**

- Disparities with chronic disease and health behaviors exist and persist

- **What CDC is doing about it:**

- State and local strategies

RI Youth and Adult Overweight and Obesity Data

- 16% of RI children were reported to be obese
- 20% and 22% of Black and Hispanic children reported being obese compared to 14% of White children
- 30% of RI adults were reported to be obese
- 43% and 34% of Black and Hispanic adults reported being obese compared to 27% of White adults
- 58% of the RI adult population were reported being overweight or obese
 - 62% of Black and 59% of Hispanic adults
 - Physical Activity Data:
 - 30% and 40% of Black and Hispanic populations report being physically inactive compared to the White population at 20%
 - 36% of Black and Hispanic children report feeling safe in their neighborhoods compared to 55% of White children

Data Sources:

RI Kids Count, June 2021

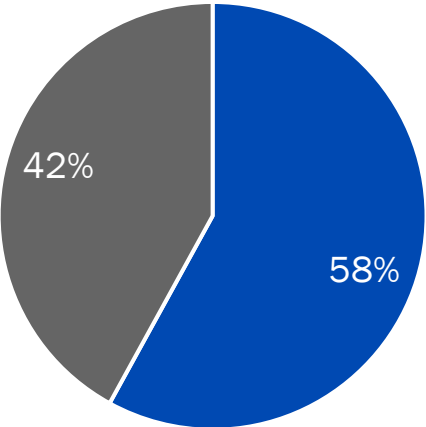
RI Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2016-2021

Youth Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2017 and 2021

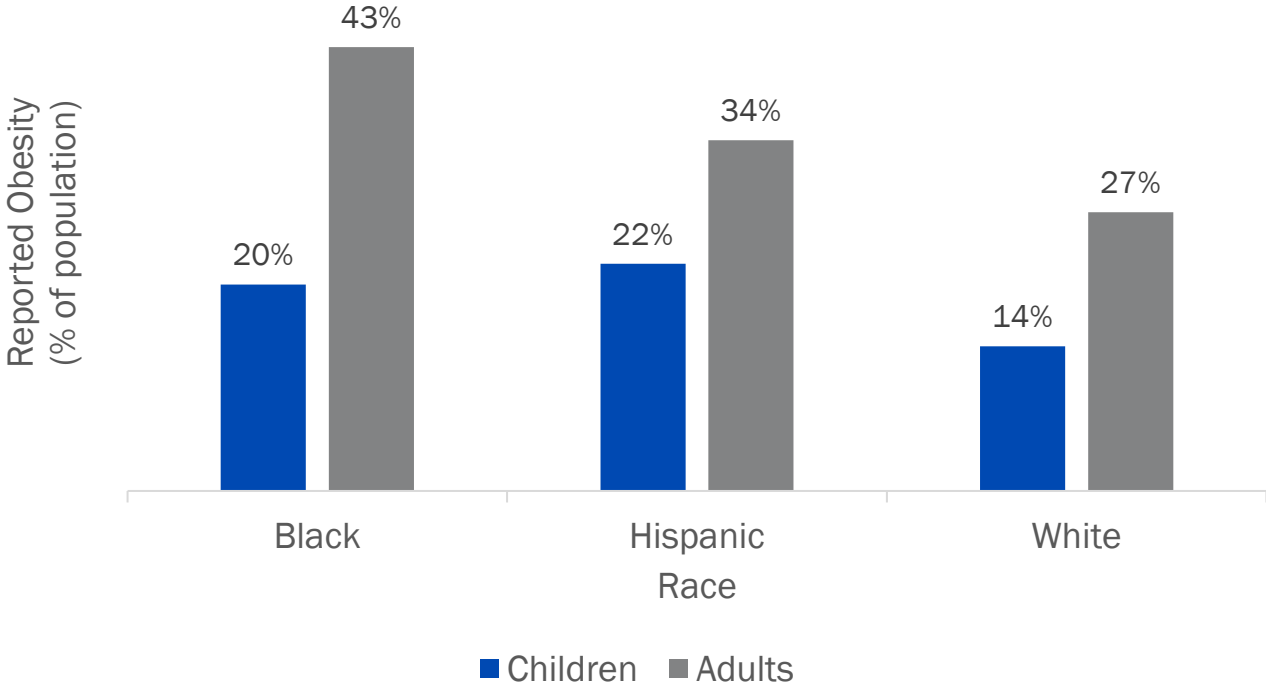
RI Youth and Adult Overweight and Obesity Data

Disparities are pervasive

Rhode Island Adult Population



■ Overweight or obese ■ Not overweight or obese

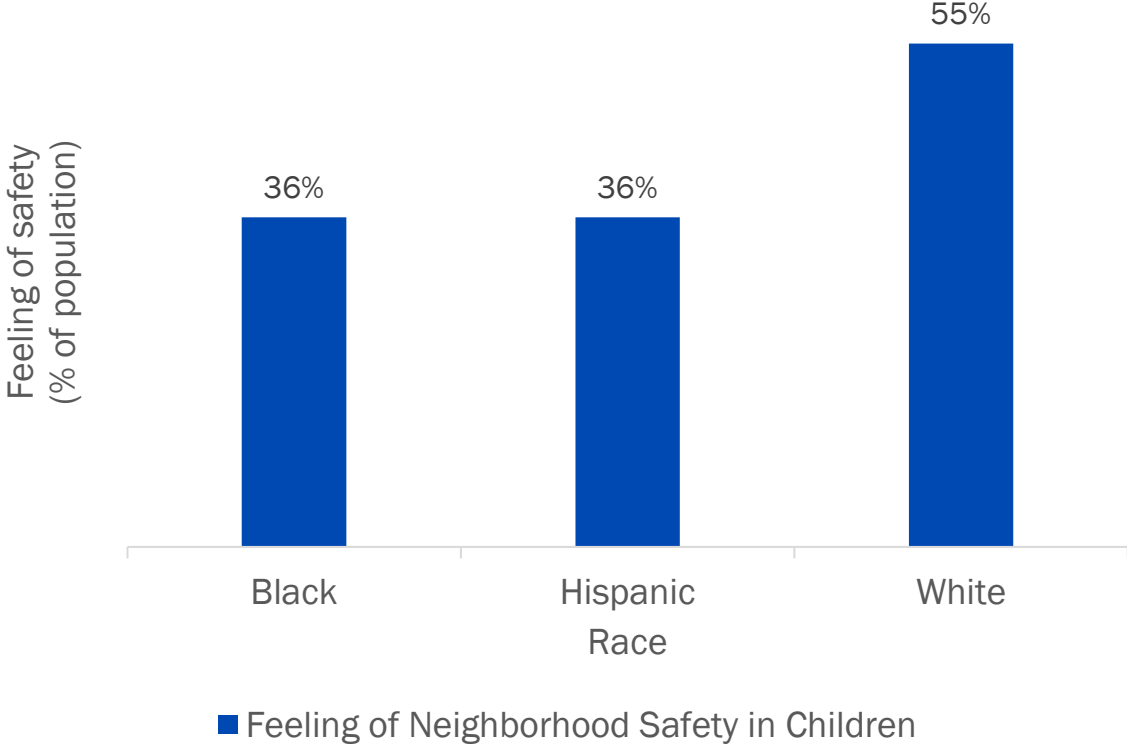
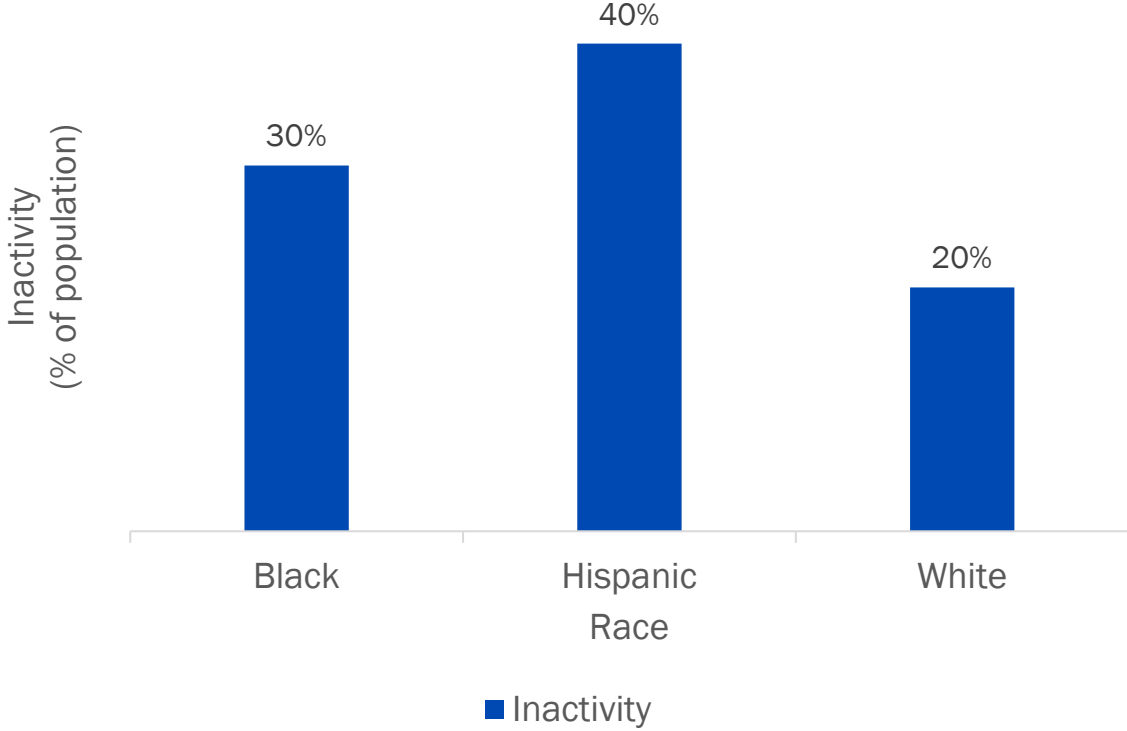


Data Sources: RI Kids Count, June 2021; RI Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2016-2021; Youth Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2017 and 2021

- 16% of RI children were reported to be obese
- 30% of RI adults were reported to be obese



Physical Inactivity and Neighborhood Safety



Data Sources: RI Kids Count, June 2021; RI Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2016-2021; Youth Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2017 and 2021



RI Chronic Disease Data

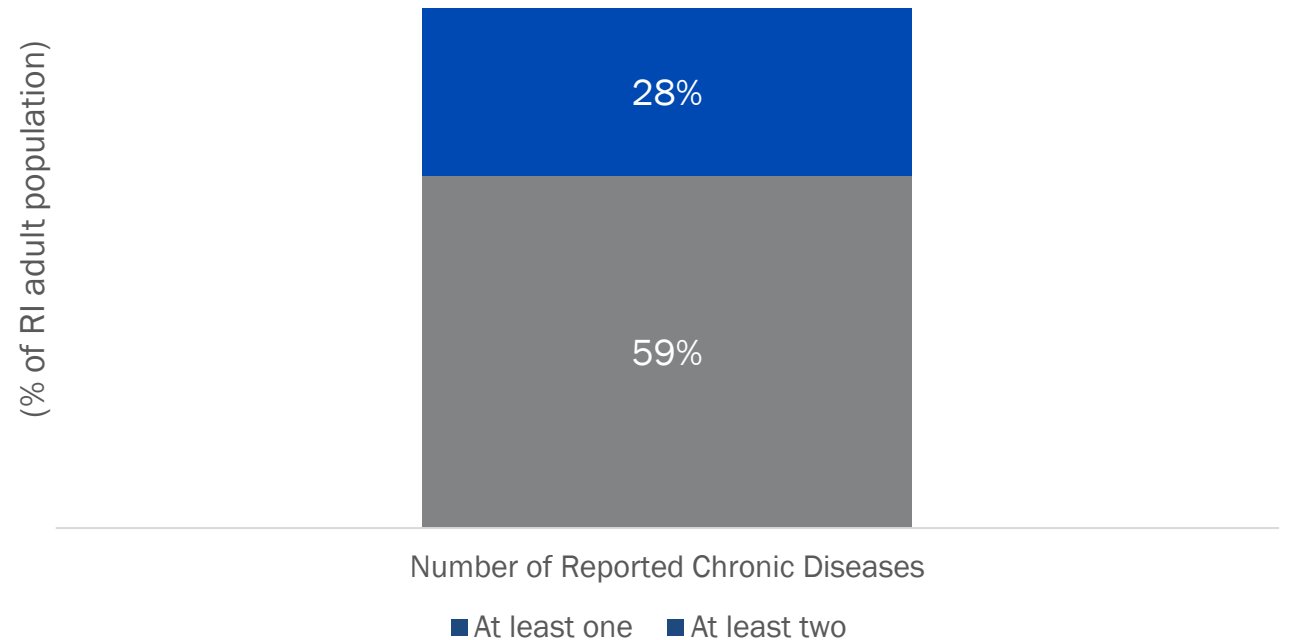
- 59% of the adult population has reported having at least one chronic disease
- 28% of the adult population has reported having at least two chronic diseases
- Diabetes prevalence: 10% in 2021; compared to 6% in 2000
- Claims spending for diabetes care is now at \$517 million in 2020

Data Sources:

RI Behavioral Risk Factor
Surveillance System,
2017, 2020, 2021

RI Chronic Disease Data

- Diabetes prevalence: 10% in 2021; compared to 6% in 2000
- Claims spending for diabetes care is now at \$517 million in 2020



Data Source: RI Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2017, 2020, 2021

RI Breastfeeding Data

- 23% of breastfeeding infants received formula before 2 days of age
- RI partially aligned with the regs for ECE centers to support breastfeeding
- Below Healthy People 2030 targets for exclusive breastfeeding at 6 months and any breastfeeding at 12 months
- Providence County achieved the lowest breastfeeding initiation rate of all counties across RI

What We Are Doing About It

RIDOH's Healthy Eating and Active Living (HEAL) Program


- One of 17 states awarded SPAN funding
- Absent from 2018 – 2023
- Continued advocacy efforts from national partners to increase CDC funding into other states

HEAL's Vision: Nourishing food and active living are culturally appealing, accessible and affordable to all Rhode Islander

Mission: To advance health equity for healthy eating and active living by collaboratively working with partners to improve policy, system and environmental changes

SPAN Work Plan

RIDOH's Healthy Eating and Active Living (HEAL) Program

- Make physical activity safe and accessible for all.
- Make healthy food choices easier everywhere with food service and nutrition guidelines and fruit and vegetable voucher incentives and produce prescriptions. 
 - Food service
 - Nutrition guidelines
 - F/V Voucher Incentives
 - PRx
- Make breastfeeding easier to start and continue.
- Strengthen obesity prevention standards for early care and education settings.

Make healthy food choices easier everywhere with food service and nutrition guidelines and fruit and vegetable voucher incentives and produce prescriptions

- Fruit and vegetable voucher incentive programs
 - ✓ Bonus Bucks, Eat Well Be Well, WIC, DEM, Food on the Move
 - ✓ Partnership with DHS, Farm Fresh RI, RI Public Health Institute, WIC, DEM
- Produce prescription programs
 - ✓ Currently, RI Food Policy Council's *Produce-ing* Potential Cohort
 - ✓ Previously, Farm Fresh RI's pilot Veggie-Rx programs

Make healthy food choices easier everywhere with food service and nutrition guidelines

- Promotion of guidance and associated **food procurement** systems in facilitates, programs or organizations where food is sold, served or distributed
- Making healthy items readily available
- How are we defining healthy?
 - ✓ [Food Service Guidelines for Federal Facilities](#)
- ✓ What are next steps and next steps for IFNPAC?
 - ✓ Institutional Procurement Working Group
 - ✓ Focus on state procurement contracts and state agencies

Update on 2030 RI Food Strategy Planning

**Alison Macbeth, Food Strategy Project Manager
RI Commerce**

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ISLAND**



Key Findings of Five Year Impact of Relish Rhody Retrospective (2017 – 2022)

Alison Macbeth, Food Strategy
RI Commerce

RETROSPECTIVE



Rhode Island State Food Strategy 5 Year Report

2017-2022



Key Findings: 5 Year Retrospective



LOOKING AHEAD:

Priorities for 2030

“My biggest disappointment was that Relish Rhody 1.0 didn't address racial equity as a priority and spoke sparingly about climate change.”

- Food System Stakeholder

- Prioritize Nutrition Security & Climate change
- Invest in Middle of the Supply Chain Infrastructure
- Promote and Encourage Conditions for Community Food Sovereignty
- Leverage Shared Regional Assets and Efforts
- Support Targeted Policy & Incentives to Achieve Goals
- Grow More Food, Affordably and Sustainably
- Center Equity and Inclusion in the Food System
- Strengthen Collaboration across Government and Private Sector

Status Update: Relish Rhody 2.0 Planning



- ✓ Funding awarded Henry P. Kendall and RI Foundation
- ✓ 5 Year Retrospective complete – published in September
- ✓ June 2023 Advisory Board members gathered to “kick-off” the planning process
- ✓ Strategic planning consultant, Northbound Ventures hired
- ✓ Project manager hired
- ✓ Local Food Counts Study underway to measure local food economy
- ✓ Inviting coordinators to research and write 30 briefs on the RI Food System

New RI Food System Studies

Strengthening RI Local Food Brands – RI Grown & RI Seafood

- Understand the economic impact of local food brands and seek to strengthen brands
- Received \$185,000 from the USDA via the Federal State Marketing Improvement Program
- 3 year project
- Working closely with DEM's brand teams and activating an advisory council
- Will be posting an RFP for a marketing research firm & hiring a coordinator

2nd Stage Food Business Economic Analysis

- Understand the needs of 2nd stage food businesses and how to support their in-state growth
- Received \$60,000 from the EDA
- ~ 6 month project
- Creating an advisory council
- Will be posting an RFP for an economic analysis study

Local Food Count

What will it take for each state to meet the goal of supplying 30% of its food from regional sources by 2030?

- Contracted Helianth Partners
- Researching the 2022 baseline of local food sales so that we can then mobilize the necessary resources and support that will assist us in achieving the 30% goal.



State of the Food System

Nessa Richman

RI Food Policy Council

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Counting on RI's Food System

Data & Trends to bring
Justice & Resilience



RIFPC's mission

is to build a more equitable,
accessible, economically
vibrant, and environmentally
sustainable food system.





The 2024 RI Food System Factbook

IFNPAC | December 12, 2023

Introduction

A data-driven landscape of the status of RI's Food System



You can use this data to help achieve your mission:

- Set strategic goals for your organization
- Establish measurable objectives for your projects and programs
- Add key facts to grant proposals
- Emphasize a trend during public speaking opportunities
- Support your views in testimony at the State House

KEY Features

- ✓ Trusted sources, clear citations
- ✓ Interactive charts
- ✓ Regularly updated data
- ✓ Easy to understand descriptions

Big picture trends are noted throughout:


POSITIVE TREND

 Employment increase

 Greenhouse gas emissions decrease

NEGATIVE TREND

 Poverty increase

 Land in agriculture decrease

NO TREND

 Food insecurity rate

No trend may mean that an indicator has not changed over time, or that only a snapshot in time is depicted.



Food System Economy

Is Rhode Island's food system
moving in the right direction?



KEY STATS

>**73,000** jobs

>**8,300** businesses

>**\$12 billion** total sales

\$13.94 median hourly wage

Food Preparation and Serving major occupational category

\$6.5 billion retail food sales

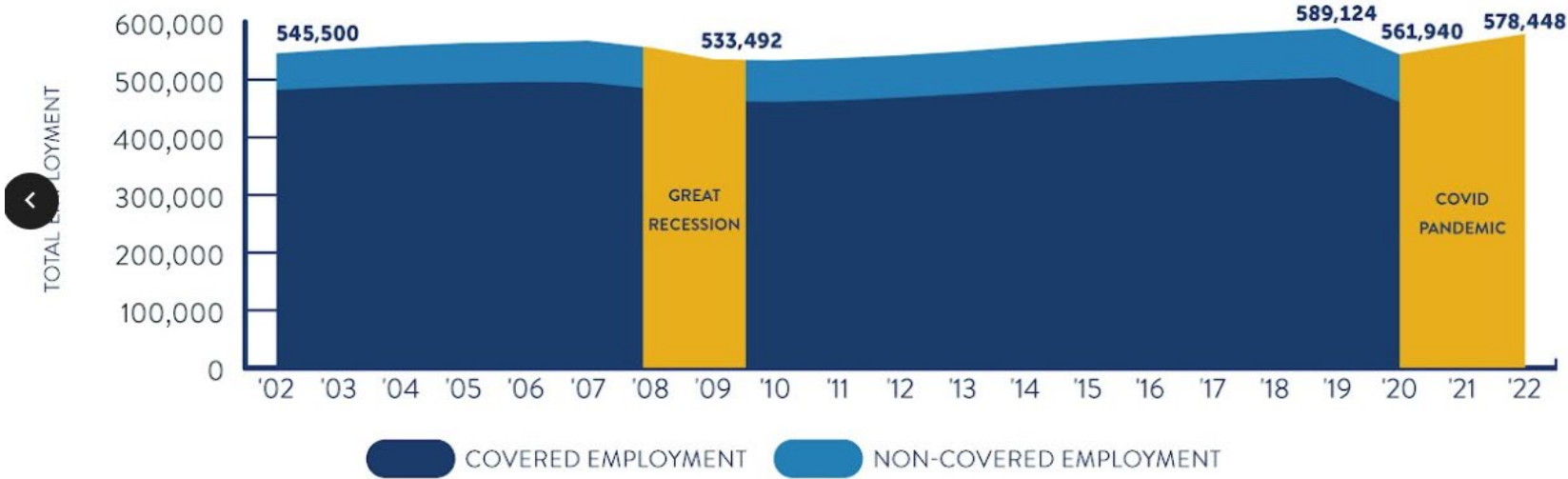
\$6,341 per capita food expenditures



TOTAL EMPLOYMENT



Total employment in Rhode Island increased **6.0%** from 2002 (545,500) to 2022 (578,448). Employment dipped to its lowest level in 2010, due to the Great Recession. Over the past 20 years, employment was highest in 2019, then dramatically decreased due to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, before rising again in 2022.



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics [Total Nonfarm Employment](#) (via FRED) and U.S. Census Bureau [Nonemployer Statistics](#). The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics provides estimates of *covered* employment—work that is covered by unemployment insurance benefits. *Non-covered* employment, or nonemployer statistics, refers to jobs that are excluded from unemployment insurance reporting requirements. Non-covered employment is mostly made up of sole proprietors and partnerships with no paid employees. Combining both data sources together provides a more comprehensive picture of employment in Rhode Island. Farm employment is not captured very well by either data source. Estimates of the number of farmers and hired farmworkers are produced every 5 years by the USDA Census of Agriculture and are not shown in this figure.



ECONOMIC IMPACT OF RHODE ISLAND'S FOOD SYSTEM, 2017



Agriculture and fisheries employment and sales were flat or declined from 2007 to 2017. Employment and sales at grocery stores decreased slightly. Food manufacturing employment decreased slightly, while sales were up. The reverse was true in beverage manufacturing, where employment increased and sales decreased. Employment and sales in wholesaling and distribution and food services all increased.

	2017 Employment	% of Total	Growth from 2007- 2017	2017 Sales	% of Total	Growth from 2007- 2017
Agriculture	3,726	5.6%	0.1%	\$62,873,200	0.5%	-3.8%
Fisheries	988	1.5%	-2.0%	\$109,856,000	0.9%	-0.6%
Food Manufacturing	2,359	3.6%	-0.5%	\$645,825,000	5.4%	1.9%
Beverage Manufacturing	367	0.6%	0.6%	\$83,628,900	0.7%	-16.1%
Wholesaling + Distributing	3,477	5.2%	2.5%	\$5,119,564,200	43.0%	8.4%
Stores	11,265	17.0%	-0.3%	\$3,118,531,100	26.2%	-0.8%
Food Services + Drinking Places	44,151	66.6%	0.9%	\$2,774,747,000	23.3%	1.5%
TOTAL	66,333	100.0%	0.6%	\$11,915,025,300	100.0%	2.5%

Source: New England Feeding New England, *Volume 3, Economic Impact of New England's Food System*. Note: Agriculture sales in this table includes support activities. Sales values are adjusted for inflation to 2020 dollars. Agricultural sales are adjusted using producer price indices for crops and livestock. The data, sources, and methods used for this analysis were consistent for the six New England states, allowing for comparisons.



Food Access & Security

Is food insecurity in RI increasing or decreasing? Are some residents disproportionately impacted?



KEY STATS

12.1% in poverty

>8.6% food insecure

77,500 people served
by food bank

30.4% of BIPOC
households
received SNAP
benefits

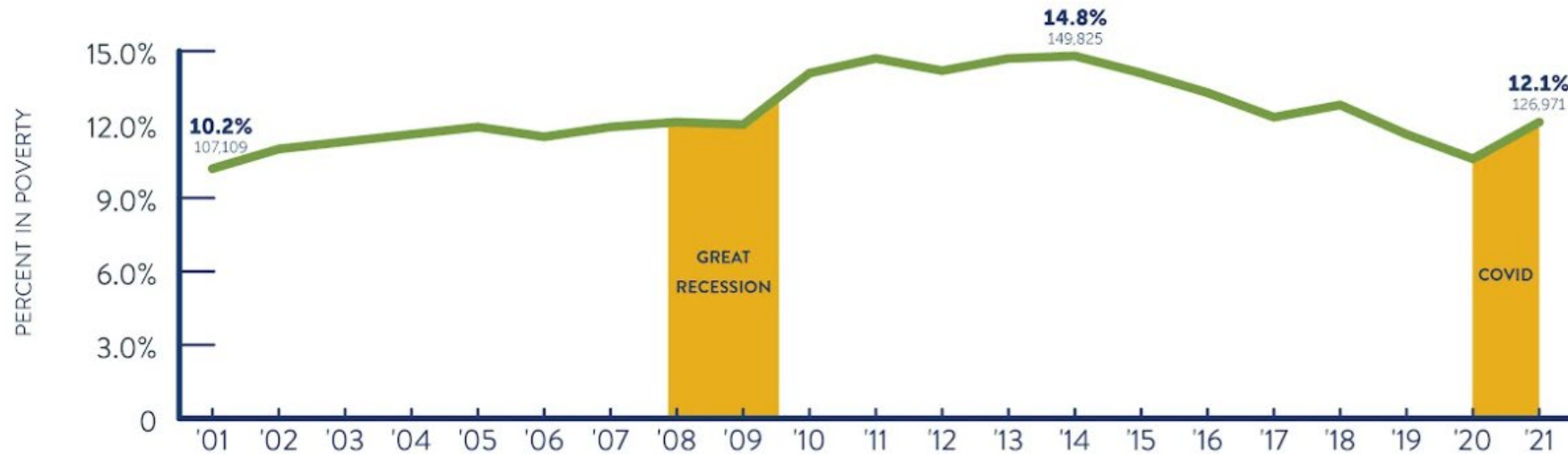
50.7% of BIPOC
residents live
in LILA census
tracts



PERCENT OF RHODE ISLANDERS IN POVERTY



The percent of Rhode Islanders in poverty gradually increased from 2001 to 2009. Poverty then jumped several percentage points due to the Great Recession and lingered over **14%** for six years. Poverty then decreased from 2014 to 2019, although it did not go below the percentage in 2001. The COVID-19 pandemic then spiked the percent of Rhode Islanders in poverty to **12.1% (126,971 people)**.



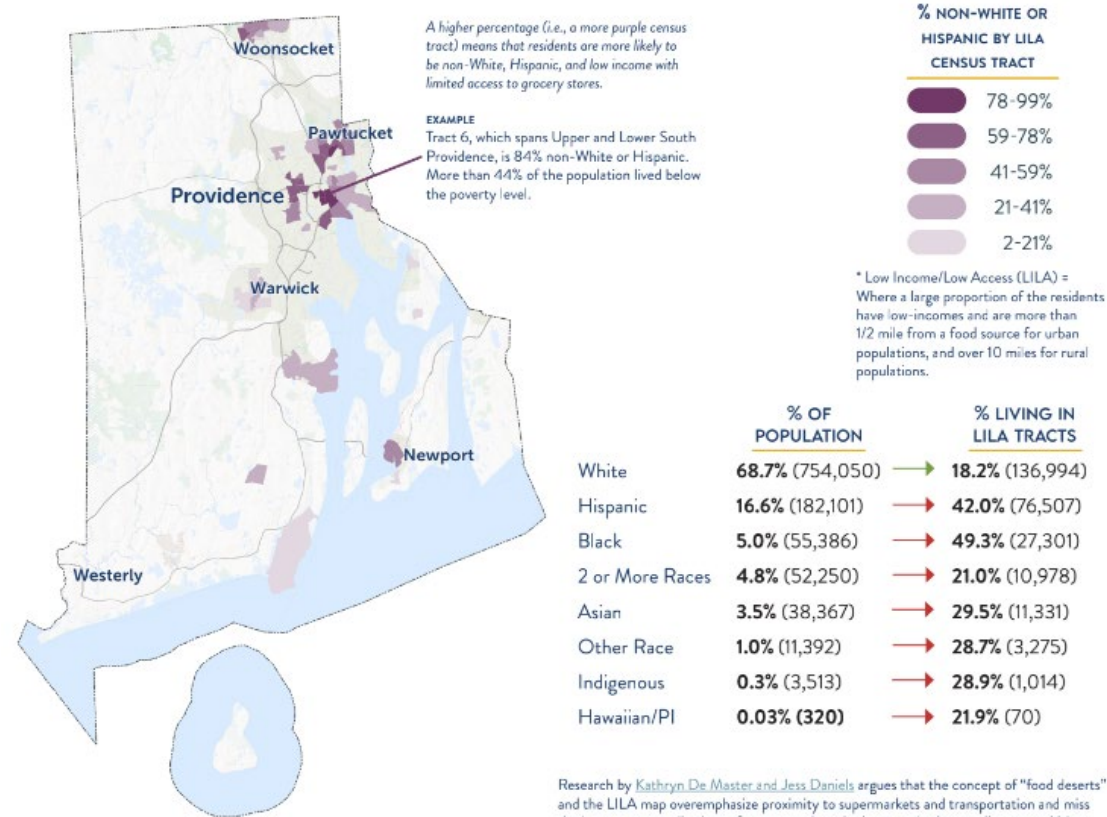
Source: U.S. Census Bureau [Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates](#) (via FRED).



LOW INCOME LOW ACCESS CENSUS TRACTS BY RACE/ETHNICITY

NO BLEND

Hispanic/Latino, Black, Asian, Indigenous, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, and Rhode Islanders of two or more races or some “other” race—made up 30.1% of the state’s population, but 50.7% of its population living in low income/low access (LILA)* census tracts.



Research by [Kathryn DeMaster](#) and [Jess Daniels](#) argues that the concept of “food deserts” and the LILA map overemphasize proximity to supermarkets and transportation and miss the important contributions of corner markets, bodegas, and other smaller stores. Using Providence as a case study, they emphasize that market basket surveys of all stores in an area can provide a more nuanced picture of foodscapes. Future versions of the Data Dashboard and Factbook can include this type of analysis.

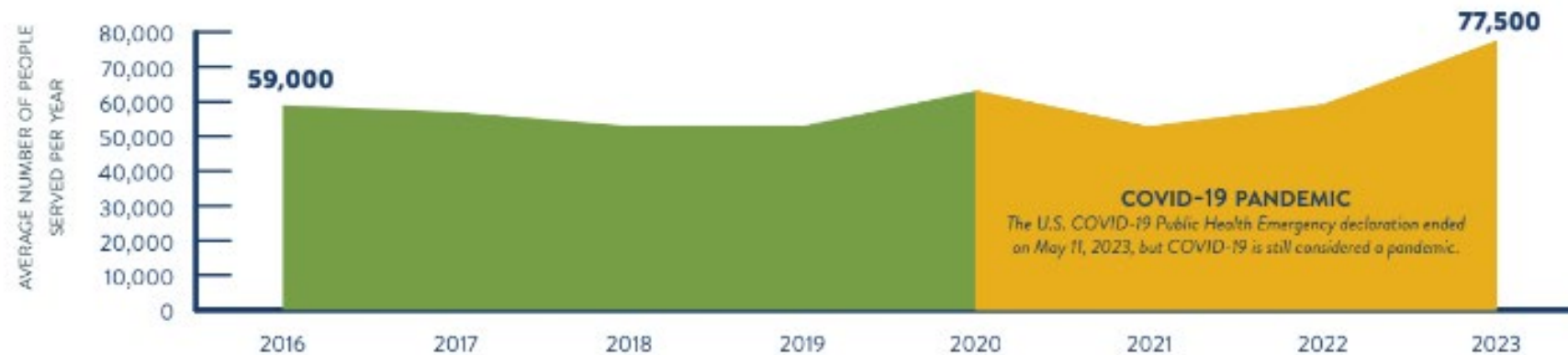
Sources: USDA Food Research Atlas, American Community Survey.



AVERAGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE SERVED BY CHARITABLE FOOD SYSTEM



In 2023, the [Rhode Island Community Food Bank](#) estimates that a record number of Rhode Islanders—**77,500**—sought assistance through the food bank and its network of 143 member agencies. High food prices and the ending of emergency SNAP benefits in 2023 are thought to be the primary drivers of the increased need for food assistance.



Source: Rhode Island Community Food Bank, [Status Report on Hunger in Rhode Island](#), multiple years.



Agriculture & Land Use

What kinds of agricultural products does RI grow/harvest? Is RI's ag sector growing or contracting?



KEY STATS

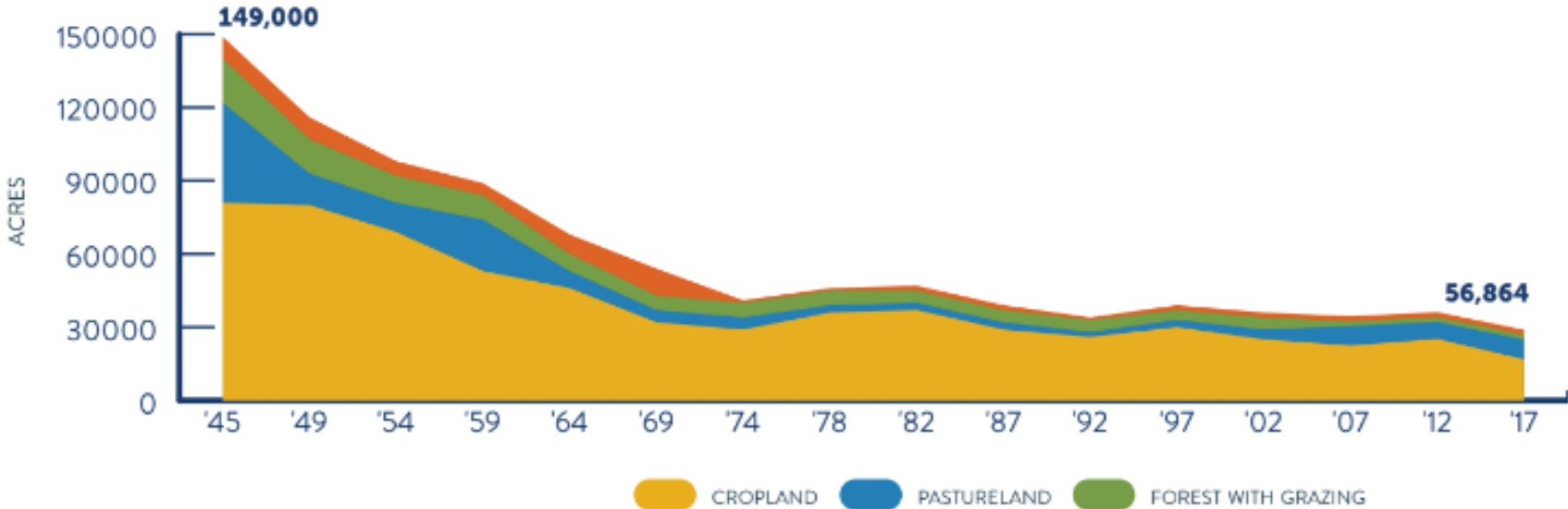
- **56,864** acres
- **1,043** farms
- **\$69.3 million** sales
- **\$12.1 million** direct sales
- **98%** of farmers are White
- **56.9** average age of farmers
- **1,794** producers
- **1,759** hired farm labor
- **\$17,500** average price per acre



LAND IN AGRICULTURE

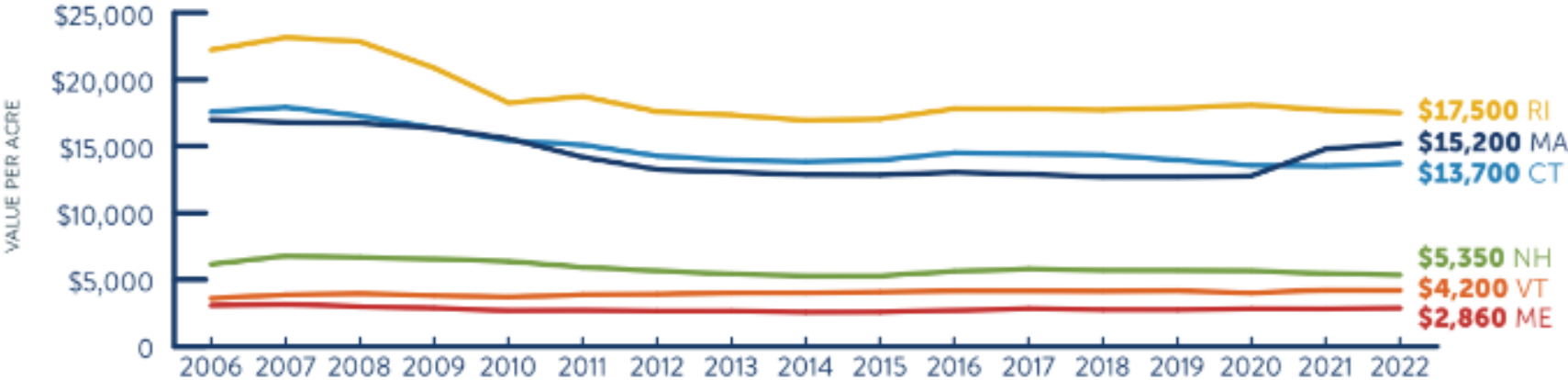


Total food sales increased by 13.9% from 2012 (\$5.7 billion) to 2017 (\$6.5 billion). Results from the 2022 Economic Census should show a recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.



NEW ENGLAND FARM LAND VALUES, 2006-2022

NO TREND The average price per acre of farm land in Rhode Island has hovered around **\$17,000** for the past 12 years. This is the highest average price per acre in the country.



Source: USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, August 2022, [Land Values 2022 Summary](#). Reported in 2022 dollars.



Commercial Fisheries & Aquaculture

What kinds of seafood products does RI harvest? Are commercial fishing/aquaculture growing or contracting?



KEY STATS

≈ **59.3 million** lbs landed

≈ **\$100 million** value of
seafood landings

≈ **\$575 million** gross
seafood sector sales

≈ **3,100** total seafood
sector jobs

374 acres in aquaculture

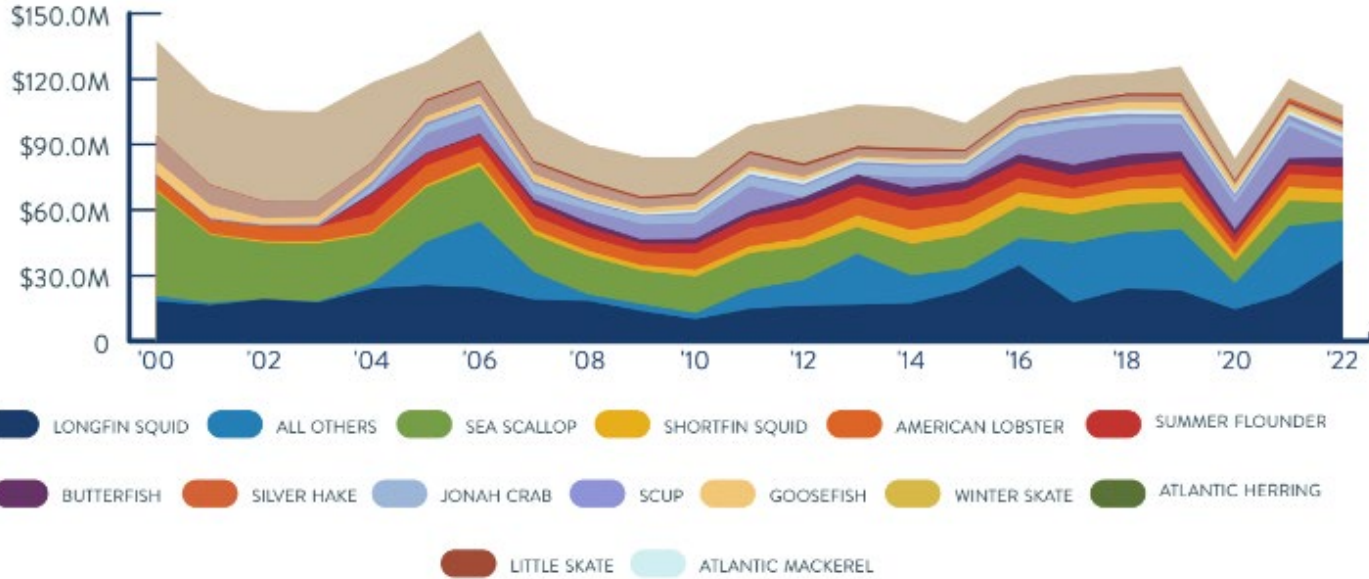
\$8.3 million aquaculture
sales



VALUE OF COMMERCIAL SEAFOOD LANDINGS, 2002-2022

NO TREND

Dr. Thomas Sproul (formerly at the University of Rhode Island) estimated nearly **\$600 million** in sales from Rhode Island's seafood and fisheries sector in 2016. Wholesalers (e.g., importers and exporters, brokers) generated 45.7% (\$274 million) in sales, followed by commercial fishing (16.4%, \$98.5 million) and service and supply businesses (e.g., nets, commercial tackle and gear, boat and equipment maintenance).



Source: NOAA Fisheries and the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program.

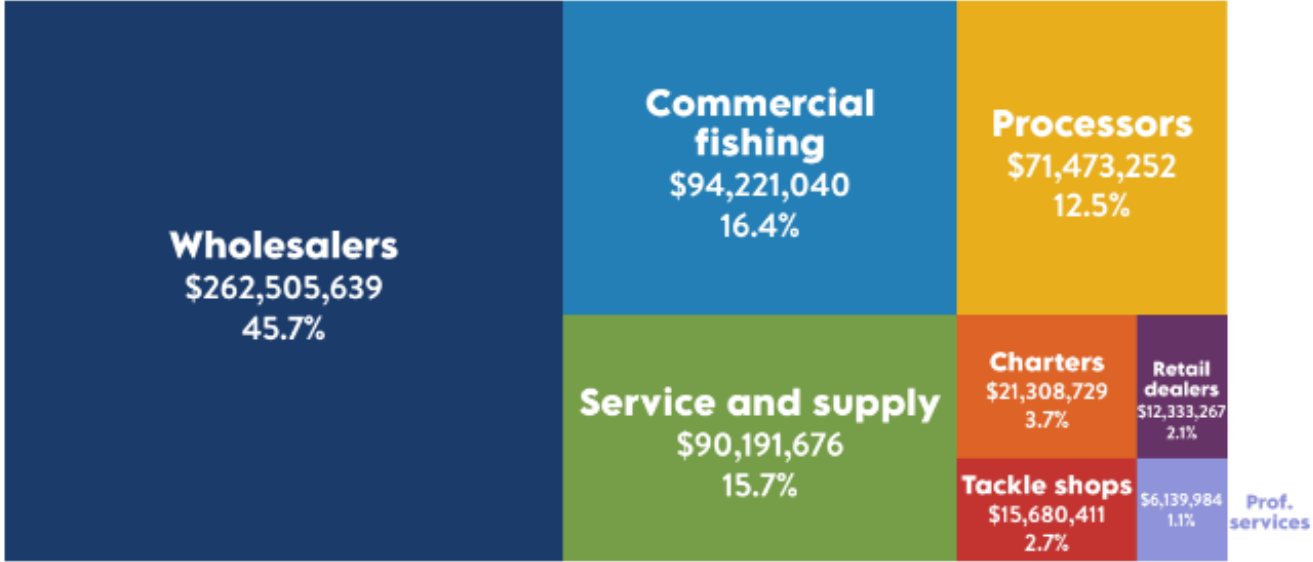


GROSS SALES OF RHODE ISLAND'S SEAFOOD SECTOR, 2016

NO TREND

Dr. Thomas Sproul (formerly at the University of Rhode Island) estimated nearly **\$600 million** in sales from Rhode Island's seafood and fisheries sector in 2016. Wholesalers (e.g., importers and exporters, brokers) generated 45.7% (\$274 million) in sales, followed by commercial fishing (16.4%, \$98.5 million) and service and supply businesses (e.g., nets, commercial tackle and gear, boat and equipment maintenance).

TOTAL = \$573,853,999



Climate Change

**How is climate change impacting
RI's food system?**



KEY STATS

2023 warmest year on record

4.2°F RI air temperature anomaly in 2023

77.7°F North Atlantic surface temp. Sept. 2023

31 billion-dollar weather disasters

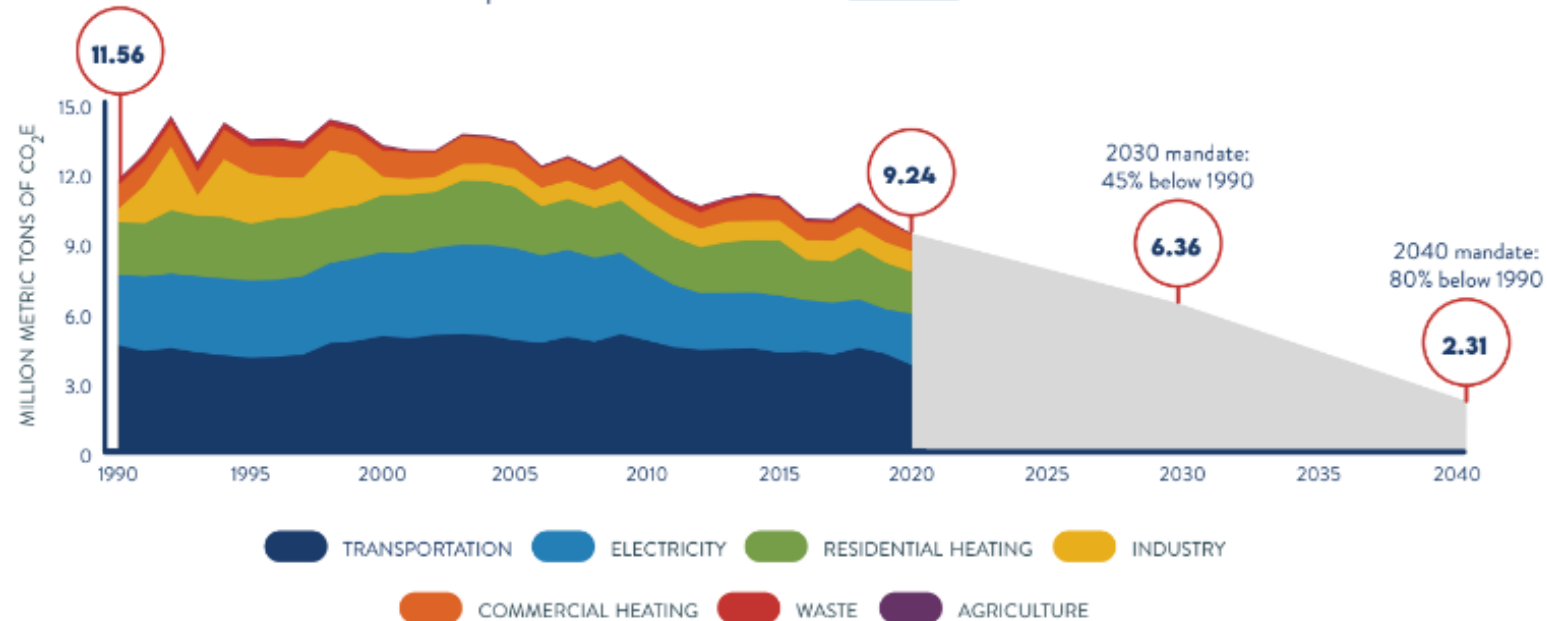
≈ **100,000 tons** food waste



GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY, 1990-2020



Net greenhouse gas emissions decreased **20.1%** from 11.56 MMCO₂e in 1990, to **9.24 MMCO₂e in 2020**. Transportation continues to be the largest source of emissions in Rhode Island. Emissions reductions for transportation from 2019 to 2020 are likely due to pandemic restrictions on travel (e.g., -79.6% for aviation emissions). Additional substantial decreases are required to meet 2030 and 2040 [mandates](#).



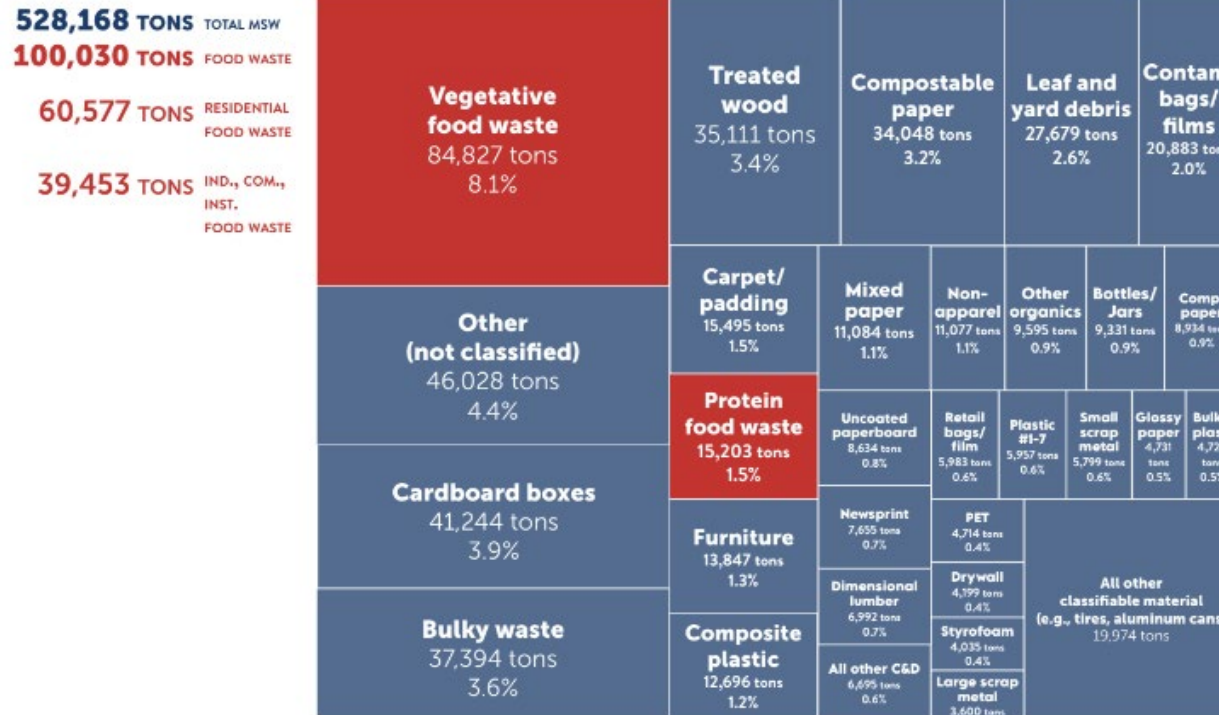
Source: State of Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management, [1990-2020 Rhode Island Greenhouse Gas \(GHG\) Emissions Inventory](#).



FOOD WASTE, 2015

NO TREND

A 2015 “Waste Characterization” study found that food waste (vegetative and protein) is the top single material in Rhode Island’s municipal waste stream at 100,000 tons (9.6%), or 2 million pounds. While food is landfilled by the ton each day, thousands of people in Rhode Island simultaneously experience food insecurity.



Source: DSM Environmental Services, 2015, Rhode Island Solid Waste Characterization Study



Conclusions and Next Steps

for the 2024 Food System Factbook



Our Value Proposition

- Annual publication of a Food System Factbook will elevate food system issues in Rhode island and educate our key decision makers.
- Educating key decision makers will result in a better food policy and regulatory environment and more public and private investment in for our farmers, fishers, and food businesses.

NEXT STEPS

- Join us January 23!
bit.ly/RIFoodSystemFactbook24
- URI Food Summit (Jan 17) promotional segment
- Printed copies will be available



Counting on RI's Food System: Data and Trends to Bring Justice and Resilience in 2024

Tuesday, January 23, 2024
12 pm – 1:30 pm ET



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RI Food System Preparedness and Recovery Plan

Rachel Newman Greene

RI Food Policy Council

**RHODE
ISLAND**

A man wearing a light-colored cap, a blue face mask, and a dark short-sleeved shirt stands in a field of lush green plants. The background is filled with dense green trees under a clear sky.

RI FOOD
POLICY
COUNCIL



RI Food System Preparedness and Recovery Plan

December 12, 2023

The Rhode Island Food System
Preparedness and Recovery Plan will
be a *standalone accompaniment* to
the State Food Strategy

RI FOOD
POLICY
COUNCIL



State Food Strategy

- ... a more sustainable, equitable, and economically viable **food system** for Rhode Island residents.
- ...clear and measurable objectives, strategies, and metrics towards **collective impact by 2030**.

Preparedness and Recovery Plan

- ... strategic priorities and an action plan that prioritize the most vulnerable communities, families and businesses to enable our food system to **respond to and recover from disruptions**.
- **3-5 year** strategic priorities
- Food system action **during recovery** from system disruption

GUIDING STATEMENT WORKING DRAFT

*The **RI Food System Preparedness and Recovery Plan** will assess hard and soft infrastructure and identify risks, vulnerabilities, assets and opportunities, in order to develop strategic priorities and an action plan that prioritize the most vulnerable communities, families and businesses to enable our food system to respond to and recover from disruptions in a way that ensures a sufficient supply of food that is acceptable and accessible to impacted communities.*



ACTIVITIES

- Assess existing hard and soft infrastructure available or in use for statewide response and recovery from food system disruptions
- Identify risks and vulnerabilities in the ability of RI's vulnerable communities, families and businesses to withstand and recover from food system disruptions
- Identify opportunities to increase food system resilience and recovery capabilities, with a focus on most vulnerable communities

ACTIVITIES (con't)

- Develop shareable and functional catalog of assets to be engaged in food system response and recovery
- Develop 3-5 year strategic priorities to ensure readiness for food system disruptions
- Develop action plan to ensure food security during recovery from system disruption

CENTRAL POINTS



PRIORITY

- Communities, families and businesses most vulnerable to negative impacts of food system disruption

GOALS

- Recover from disruptions as effectively as possible
- Ensure sufficient supply of food that is acceptable, accessible for all
- Ensure that recovery goals and plans are fully integrated into the State Food Strategy

TIMEFRAME

- Extended recovery period after an acute food-system disruption, following initial emergency response

Audiences

FOR ACTION

- State agencies

FOR COORDINATION

- HEZs, institutions (colleges, universities, hospitals, schools); municipal agencies, large corporations (e.g. Newport Restaurant Group, UNFI, companies with trucks that can hold/prepare/store food); list to be further developed

FOR AWARENESS

- Legislators, Governor's office, general public



Status

11/10/2023: RFP ISSUED

- <https://rifoodcouncil.org/rfp-rhode-island-food-system-preparedness-and-recovery-planning-process/>
- Communicated through RIFPC channels

12/6/2023: RESPONSES DUE

- 3 full responses received

1/5/2024

- Expected contract execution, beginning of work plan



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Interact & advocate with us [@rifoodcouncil](https://twitter.com/rifoodcouncil)



Updates from Council Agencies

2024 Calendar

Proposal for the Council's next meetings

- March 19th, 9:30-11am
- June 18th, 9:30-11am
- September 17th, 9:30-11am
- December 10th, 9:30-11am