



# Socio-Economic Factors Impacting Women's Health in Rhode Island

Women's Health Council of Rhode Island  
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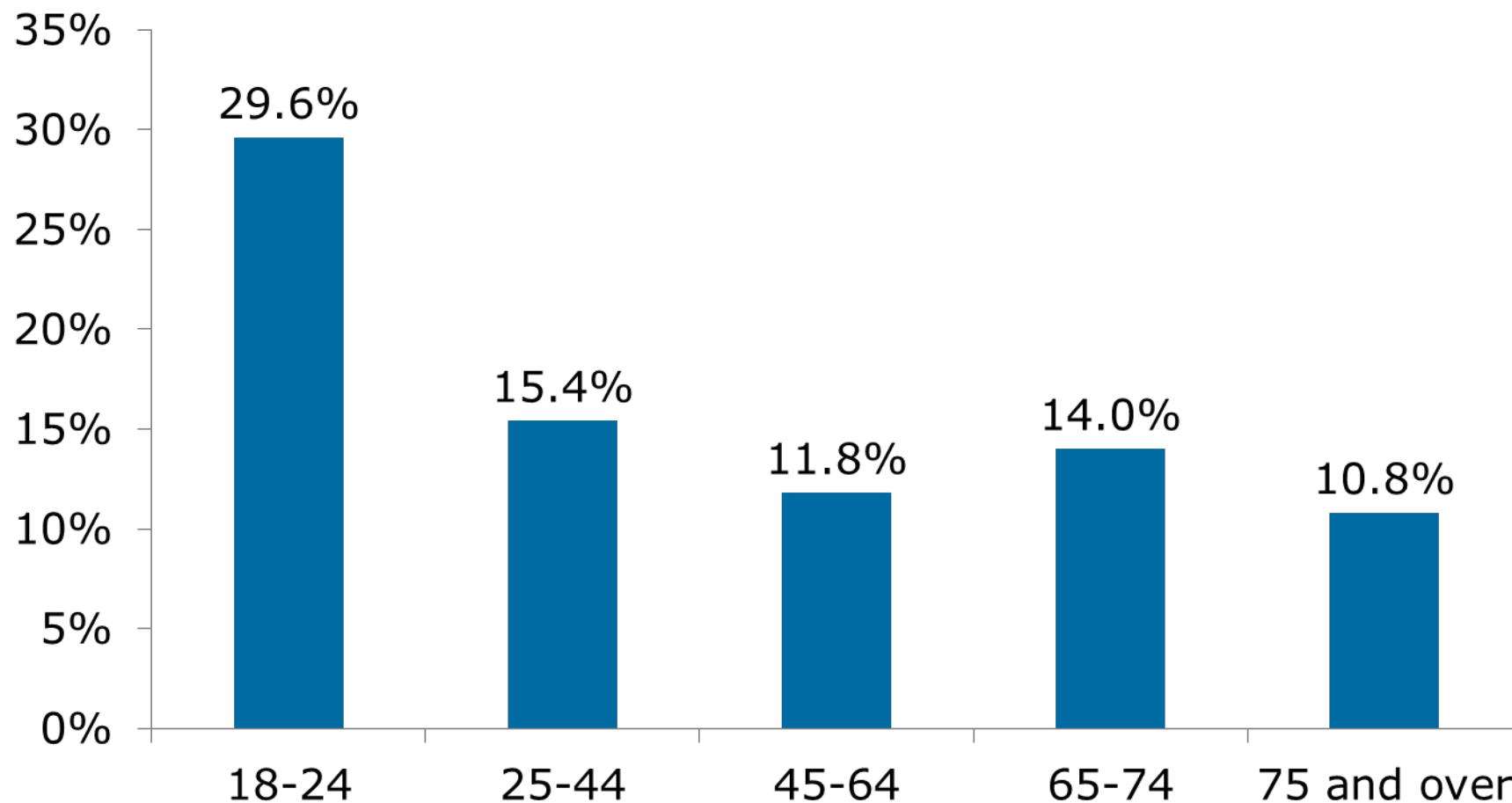


# Poverty

Lower socioeconomic status is associated with higher risk for many diseases including cardiovascular disease, arthritis, diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases and cervical cancer, as well as for frequent mental distress

- 2012 RI Women's Report Card: Socioeconomic Determinants of Health, Women's Health Council of RI

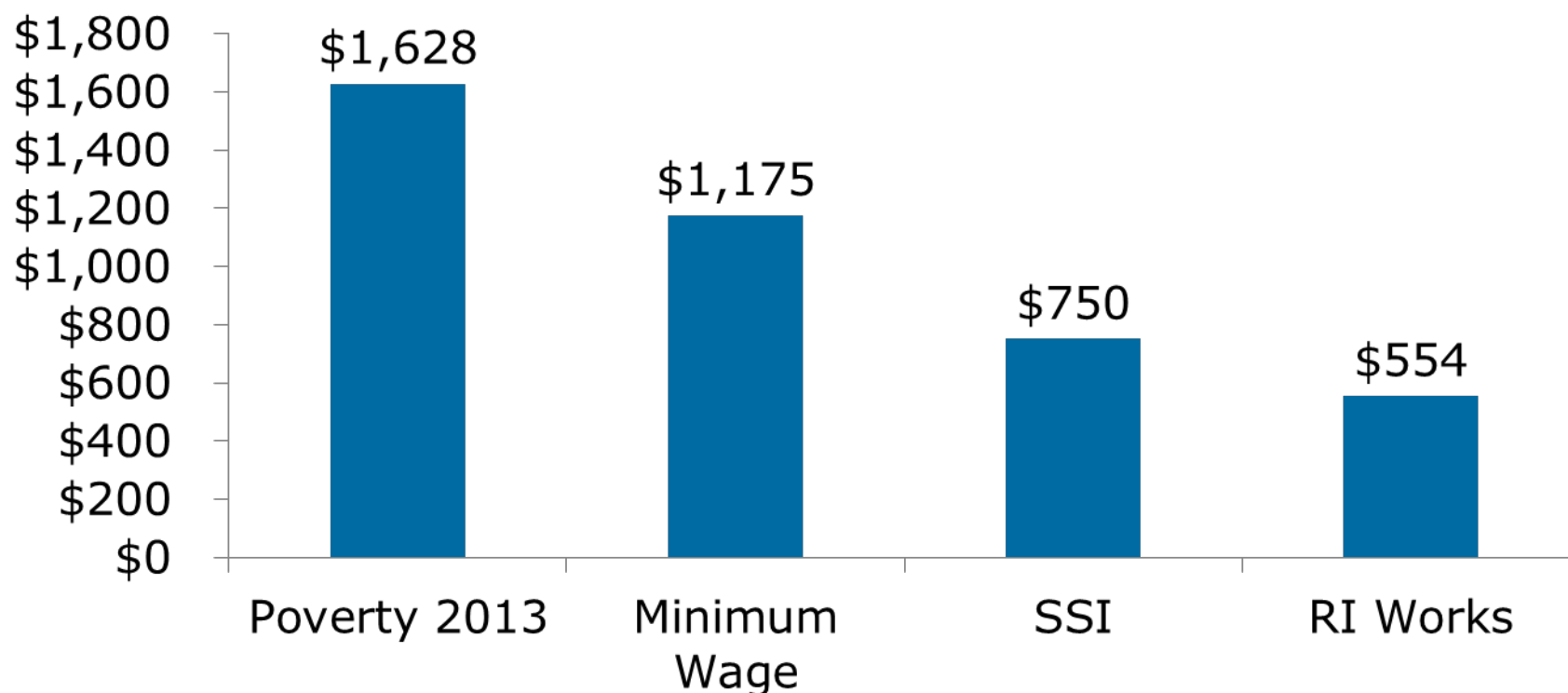
## Around 63,000 Women age 18 + Lived in Poverty - 2011



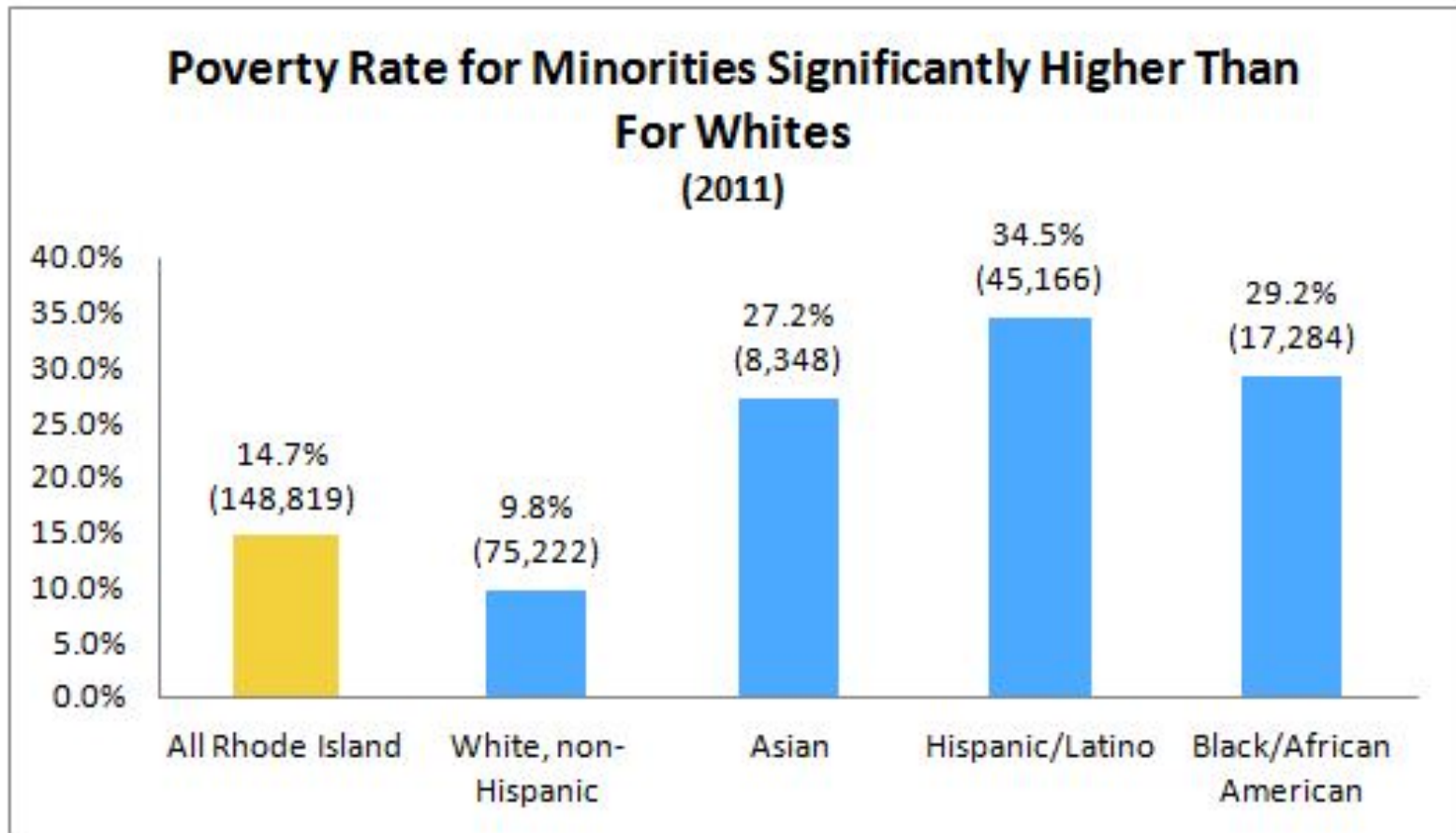
Source: American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates, 2012

# Monthly income compared to federal poverty level

## Single Parent and 2 children



# Poverty in Rhode Island (2011)



Source: American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates, 2012

# Housing Costs

Unaffordable housing costs affect health by reducing the income that a household has available for nutritious food and necessary health expenses, as well as by causing stress, residential instability and crowding. ... Crowding also has a negative impact on mental health and may increase susceptibility to disease.

Housing and Health: New Opportunities for Dialogues and Action, National Center for Housing Policy, 2012

## High Housing Costs – Limited Assistance

- Housing is considered affordable if it costs less than 30% of income
- 50% of renters in Rhode Island pay more than 30% of income for housing
- 25% of renters pay more than 50% of income for housing
- Rhode Island is one of only 9 states without a dedicated funding source for affordable housing

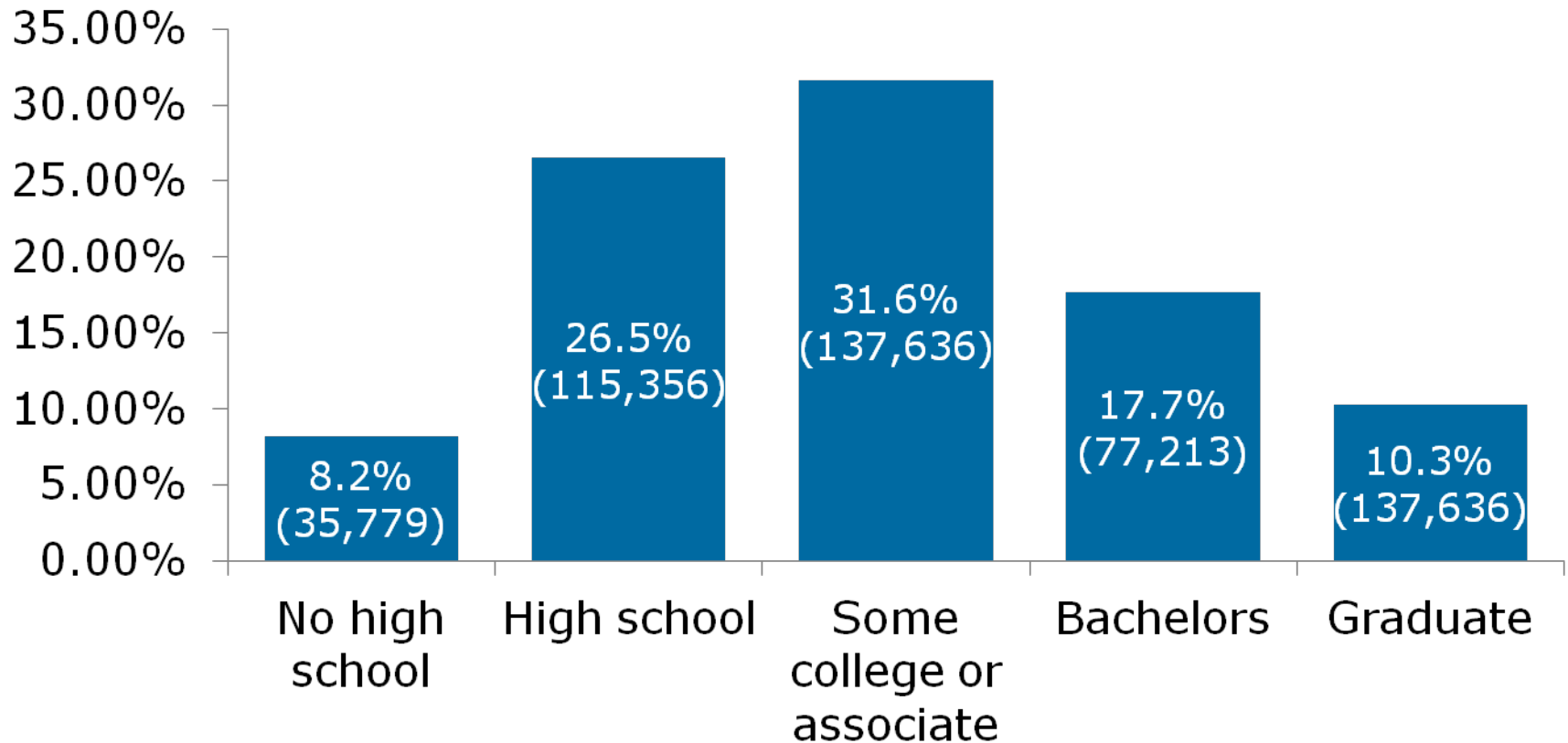
# Educational Attainment

Female adults with lower educational attainment face poorer health outcomes, lower life expectancy, and worse health for their children.

2012 Women's Report Card: Socioeconomic Determinants of Health



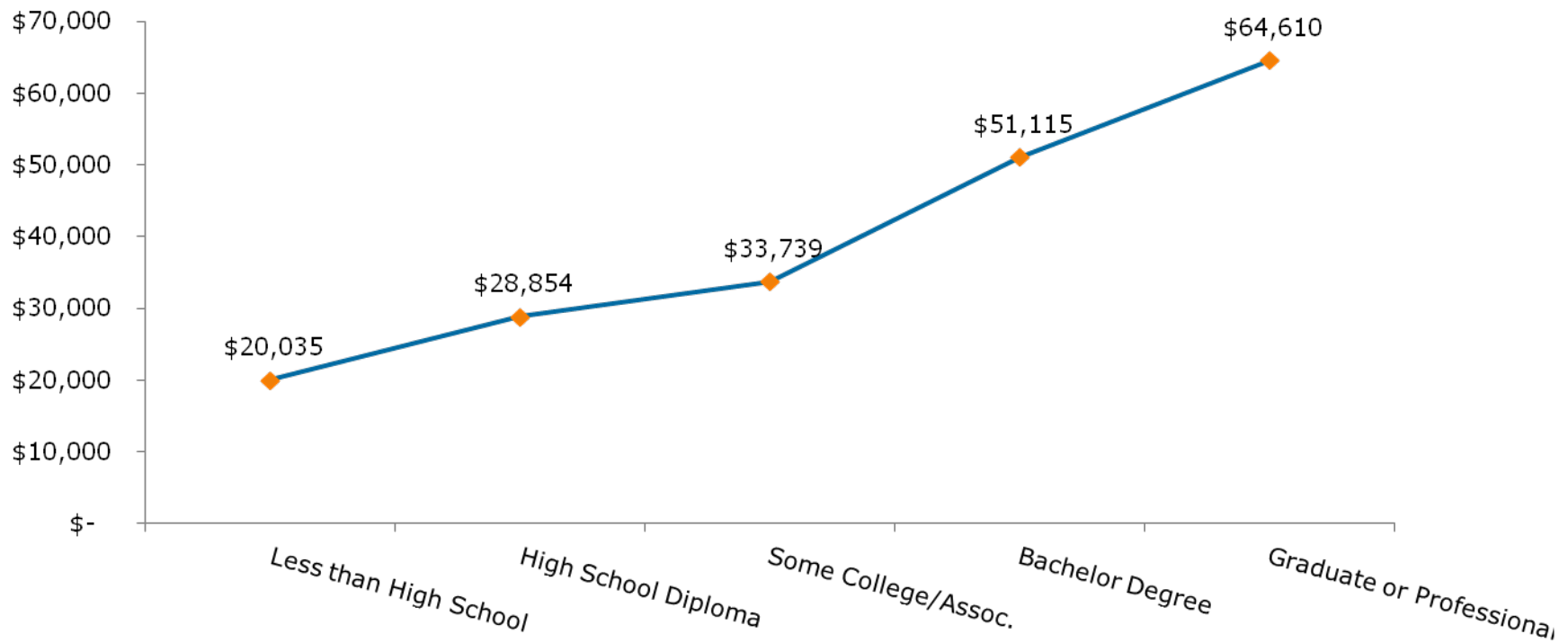
## Education Level of Rhode Island Women (2011)



Source: American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates, 2012

# Increased Education = Increased Earnings

## Median Earnings in RI by Education (in 2010 inflation-adjusted dollars) Median Annual Income

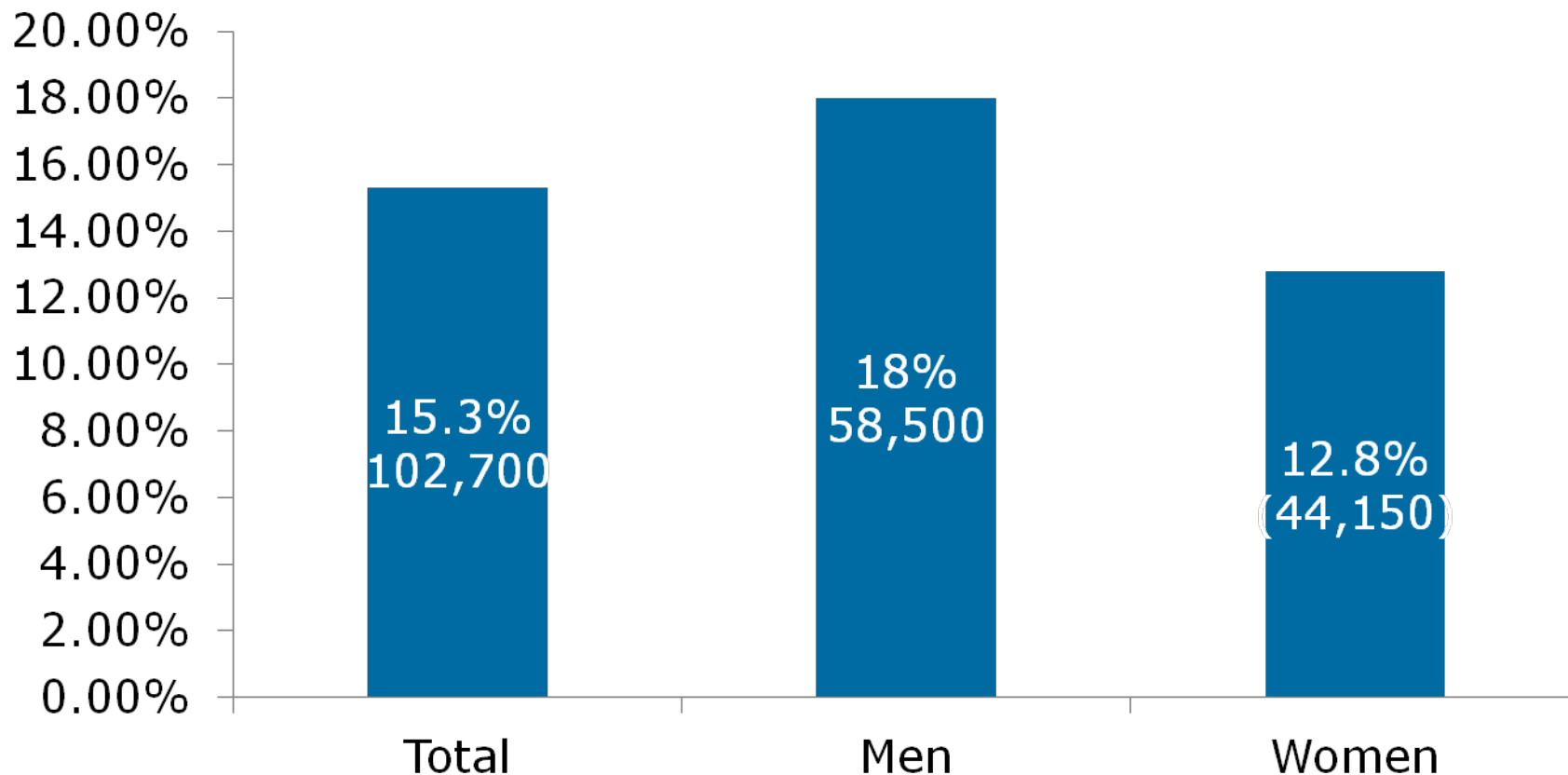


# Health Insurance

A robust body of well-designed, high-quality research provides compelling findings about the harms of being uninsured and the benefits of gaining health insurance,... there is a chasm between the health care needs of people without health insurance and access to effective health care services. This gap results in needless illness, suffering, and even death.

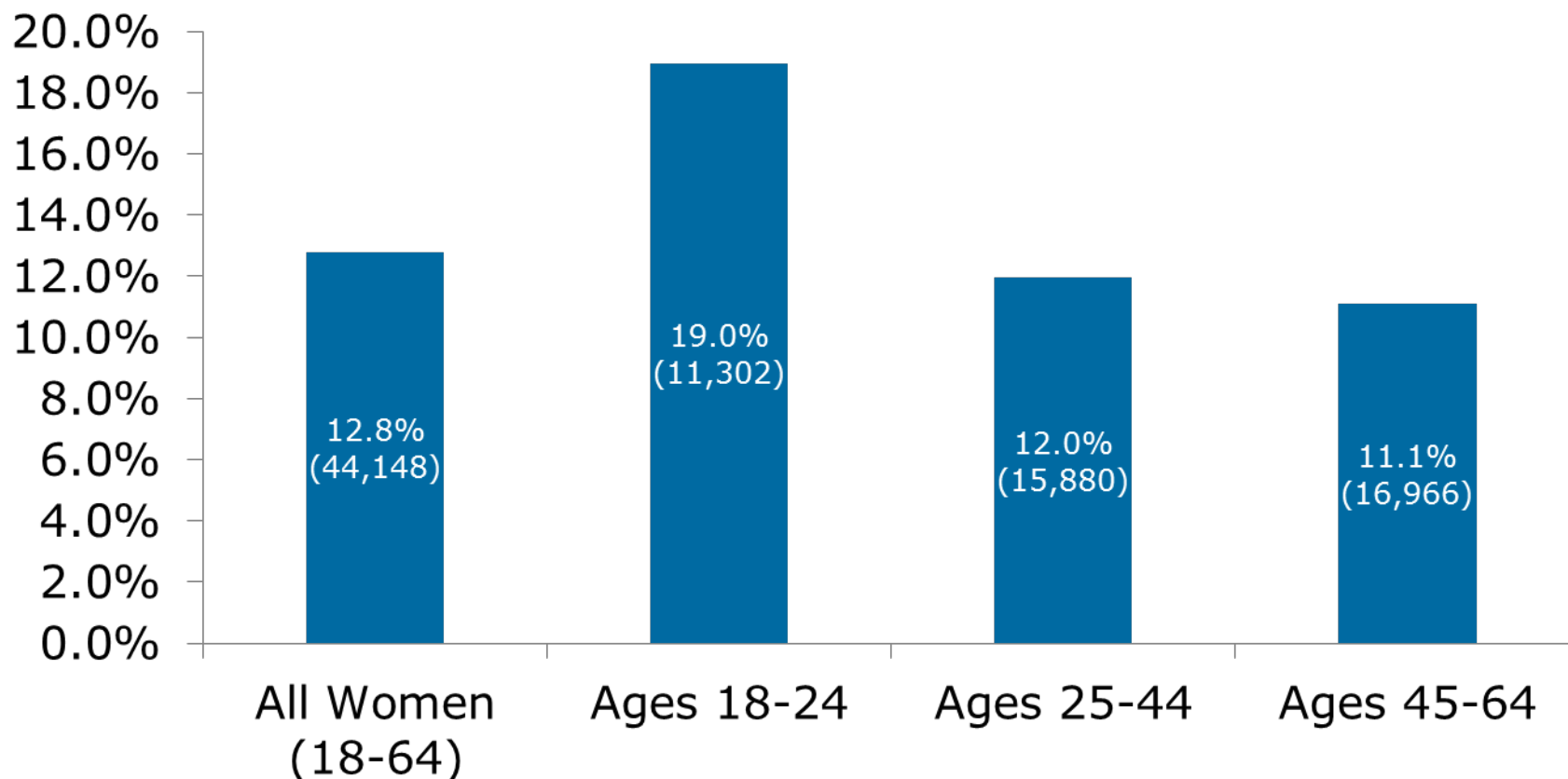
“America’s Uninsured Crisis: Consequences for Health and Health Care”  
Institute of Medicine, 2009

## Percent of Rhode Islanders (18-64) Without Health Insurance (2011)



Source: American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates, 2012

## Rhode Island Women Without Health Insurance (2011)



Source: American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates, 2012

## AN EXAMPLE OF HOW CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE AND RITE CARE HELP FAMILIES MEET BASIC NEEDS

*Meredith: A Single Parent with Two Children with Gross Earnings of \$32,043 (175% FPL)*

|   | WITH SUBSIDIES | WITHOUT SUBSIDIES |
|---|----------------|-------------------|
| HOUSING   | \$963          | \$963             |
| FOOD  | \$594          | \$594             |
| TRANSPORTATION  | \$426          | \$426             |
| CHILD CARE  | \$214          | \$1,321           |
| MEDICAL   | \$61           | \$359             |
| MISC. & SALES TAX                                     | \$385          | \$385             |
| TOTAL EXPENSES  | \$2,643        | \$4,048           |
| INCOME*   | \$2,864        | \$2,864           |
| Difference Between Total<br>Monthly Income & Expenses | \$221          | – \$1,184         |

\* Income includes food assistance and tax credits.



## Getting Involved....

**Affordable Housing** – RI Coalition for the Homeless

**Anti-Poverty** – The Economic Progress Institute

**Affordable Health Insurance** – The Health Coverage Project

**Workforce Skills** – The RI Workforce Alliance

# The Economic Progress Institute - Resources

- Visit our website [www.economicprogressri.org](http://www.economicprogressri.org)
- **The Guide to Assistance**
- Sign up for our e-newsletter
- Fan us: [facebook.com/economicprogressri](https://facebook.com/economicprogressri)