



# Rhode Island's Vulnerable Populations: Building Connectedness

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# Vulnerable Populations

***Merriam-Webster Dictionary's definition of vulnerable:***

1. Capable of being physically or emotionally wounded.
2. Open to attack or damage; vulnerable to criticism.

**Vulnerable populations** are at risk for inconsistent healthcare access and outcomes because of economic, cultural, ethnic or health characteristics.

**Vulnerable populations** include patients who are racial or ethnic minorities, children, elderly, socioeconomically disadvantaged, underinsured, or those...



**Bridgemark, Inc.** has been serving the deaf community for behavioral health since 1993. They offer sign language classes to clients, employees, and the public.

Estimated 87,000 deaf or hard of hearing in Rhode Island.  
*(Rhode Island Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing)*

There is no consistent funding sources for communication access.





31 North Union St.  
Pawtucket 02860  
401-725-2520

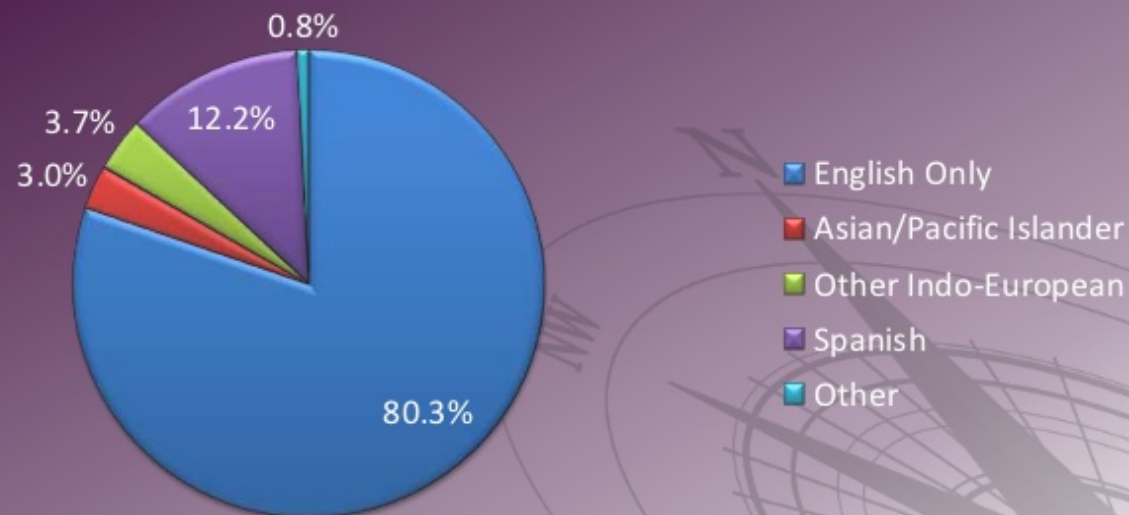
Addiction Recovery  
Institute (ARI) has Spanish-  
speaking staff available by  
phone and at the walk-in  
center to connect with  
Spanish-speaking  
individuals.



## Language Barriers

- In the United States, 1 in 5 people speak a language other than English

Percentage of population age 5 and older by language  
spoken at home





## Cross-Cutting Working Group for Racial Equity

### Co-Chairs:

Dennis Bailer and Lily Rivera

The importance of “actually being heard”

### Next meeting:

Thursday, February 27

### Location:

Project Weber/RENEW  
640 Broad St., Providence

## BARRIERS TO HEALTH CARE MINORITIES EXPERIENCE:



- Less likely to receive treatment
  - Poorer quality of care
  - Higher levels of stigma
- Culturally insensitive health care system
  - Language barriers
- Racism, bias, homophobia or discrimination
  - Lower rates of health insurance



Information collected from NAMI Long

Anchor Learning Academy  
520 Hope St., Providence 02906  
Established in 2011



**Anchor Learning Academy** provides students in recovery with a supportive learning environment where they can achieve success in academics and guidance in their individual recovery journeys and acquire **social connectedness**.

**Summary Data from 2014-2019:**

- ▶ # of unique individuals served – 60 students
- ▶ # of unique sending districts – 17 districts
- ▶ # of individuals graduating – 14 students

**Stacy Perin, LICSW; Director 401-276-4169**



# Who Else Are We Missing?

- ▶ Older Rhode Islanders
- ▶ Pregnant people
- ▶ Re-entry incarcerated individuals
- ▶ Socio-economically disadvantaged
- ▶ People who are physically or emotionally ill
- ▶ People who have challenges with communication
- ▶ Survivors of trauma
- ▶ Children and Youth

