

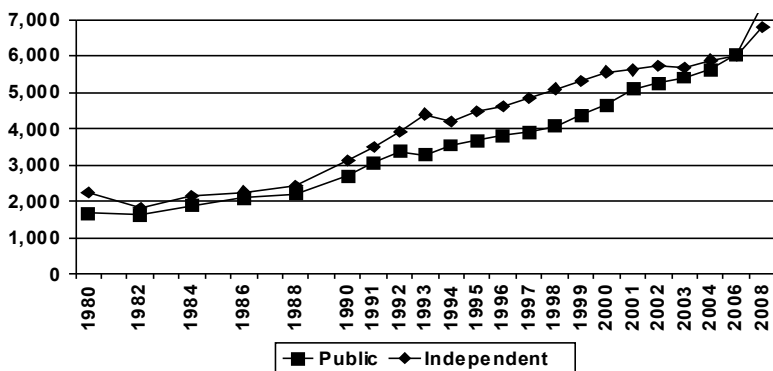
RI Office of Higher Education
74 West Road
Providence, RI 02920
Jack R. Warner, Commissioner

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
Donald L. Carcieri, Governor

**RHODE ISLAND HIGHER EDUCATION
FALL 2008 ENROLLMENT BY RACIAL/ETHNIC GROUP*
HIGHLIGHTS**

- Overall, the number and proportion of minority students in Rhode Island's institutions of higher education continue to rise. In fall 2008, 14,206 minority students were enrolled in Rhode Island higher education; this represents an increase of 2,054 over fall 2005. The proportion of minority students has risen to 16 percent of total RI enrollment, up from 14.8 percent in 2005. Minority increase in enrollment has helped increase overall enrollment in higher education.
- The public institutions of higher education (Community College of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College, and University of Rhode Island) enrolled 7,402 minority students in 2008, 52.1 percent of the minority enrollment in the state. Independent institutions enrolled 6,804 minority students, or 47.9 percent of the total. Unknown Race/Ethnicity continues to be a growing category. In the past, the public institutions had a much larger proportion of students (14.8 percent in 2003) in this category than the independents (9.3 percent). However, in 2008, the public institutions now have a smaller proportion of "Race/Ethnicity Unknown" students (13.8 percent in public institutions and 18 percent in the independents).
- In the fall of 2008, minority students composed 17.4 percent of total enrollment in public institutions (up from 15.0 percent two years ago) and 14.8 percent of total enrollment in independent institutions (holding steady).
- A total of 4,641 Black students attended Rhode Island institutions of higher education in fall 2008 (2,525 at the public institutions, 2,116 at the independents). The proportion of Blacks in total enrollment was 5.2 percent, remaining steady. In the public institutions, Black enrollment increased to 5.9 percent of total enrollment. At the independent institutions, Black enrollment as a percentage of total enrollment once again decreased slightly to 4.7 percent.
- Hispanic enrollment grew to 5,789 students. This increased their overall proportion of total enrollment from 5.6 to 6.5 percent. In the public institutions, Hispanic enrollment grew to 3,459 or 8.1 percent of total enrollment, surpassing Black enrollment for the tenth year in a row. In the independent sector, Hispanic enrollment (2,330 students) was 5 percent of total enrollment.
- In fall 2008, the proportion of Asian/Pacific Islander students increased slightly from 3.7 percent to 3.8 percent of total enrollment. The institutions enrolled 3,394 Asian/Pacific Islander students, who, as in the past, chose the independent sector by a margin of nearly two-to-one (2,176 in the independents and 1,218 in the public institutions).
- The number and proportion of American Indian/Alaskan Native students remained small (382 students, 0.4 percent of total enrollment). The numbers and percentages are small in both the independent and public sectors.

**Rhode Island Higher Education
Minority Headcount Enrollment, Fall 1980-2008**



- **Trends.** From fall 1980 to fall 2008, the number of minority students enrolled at the institutions of higher education in Rhode Island has increased 363.1 percent overall, from 3,912 to 14,206 students. Minority enrollment continues to spur the increasing higher education enrollment in Rhode Island. There have been major gains across all minority groups. During the same period, White enrollment fell to 64.3 percent of enrollment in RI.

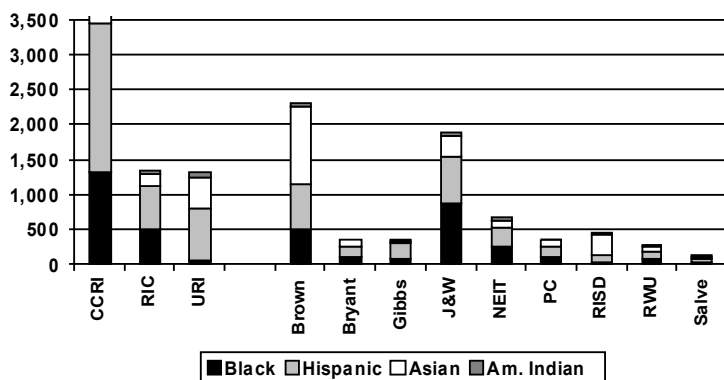
* **Enrollment** refers to total headcount. **Minority** refers to the sum of Black, Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander, and American Indian/Alaskan Native students. These are racial/ethnic group categories used by the U.S. Department of Education in its data collection activities. Data are from the federal IPEDS 2008 Fall Enrollment Survey.

**Rhode Island Institutions of Higher Education
Total Headcount Enrollment by Racial/Ethnic Group, Fall 2005**

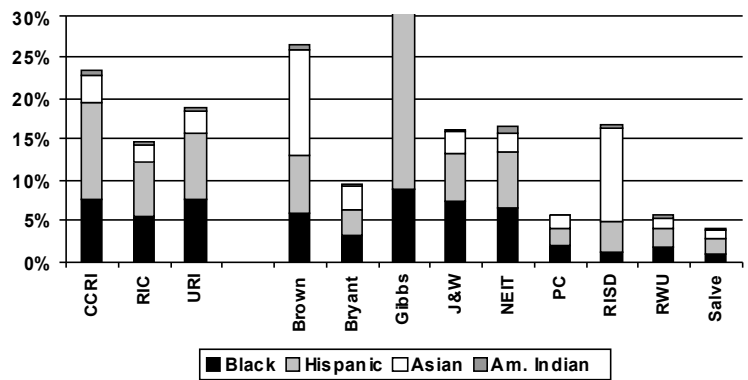
	Public		Independent		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
White (Non-Hispanic)	29,115	68.3%	27,688	60.1%	56,803	64.1%
Black (Non-Hispanic)	2,525	5.9%	2,116	4.6%	4,641	5.2%
Hispanic	3,459	8.1%	2,330	5.1%	5,789	6.5%
Am.Indian/AK Nat.	200	0.5%	182	0.4%	382	0.4%
Asian/Pac. Islander	1,218	2.9%	2,176	4.7%	3,394	3.8%
Unknown Race/Eth.	5,895	13.8%	8,455	18.3%	14,350	16.2%
Non-Resident Alien	321	0.7%	3,123	6.8%	3,444	3.9%
TOTAL	42,601	100.0%	46,070	100.0%	88,671	100.0%
Total Minority	7,402	17.4%	6,804	14.8%	14,206	16.0%

Source: IPEDS 2008 Fall Enrollment Survey

**Minority Headcount Enrollment
Fall 2008**



**Minority Enrollment as a Percent of Total Enrollment
Fall 2008**



This report provides a summary of 2008 enrollment data. For more detailed information, contact: Academic and Student Affairs, RI Office of Higher Education, 74 West Road, Cranston, RI 02920 or <http://www.righe.org>