

# Rhode Island Health Care Employment Growth and Population Facts

Between 2000 and 2010, health care\* was the fastest growing industry in Rhode Island, adding 10,645 (+18.8%) jobs in the Ocean State, more than any other industry. In comparison, the nation as a whole added over 2.9 million (+27.7%) health care jobs during this period.

Health Care Workers				
	2000	2010	Change	
RI	56,523	67,168	10,645	18.8%
US	10,753,373	13,728,076	2,974,703	27.7%

Although Rhode Island lagged far behind the nation in terms of job growth in the health care industry, census data reveals that Rhode Island's gain of health care workers is quite notable when considering population facts.

According to the 2010 Census, total population in Rhode Island in 2010 was 1,052,567, a gain of 4,248 (+0.4%) from the Census 2000 figure of 1,048,319. The 2000 and 2010 census surveys also revealed that total population in the United States increased by over 27.3 million (+9.7%) in 2010, from the population total of 281.4 million in 2000.

Based on the change in the number of health care workers in Rhode Island and the nation between 2000 and 2010, and based on the population data from the Census 2000 and 2010 Census, one can conclude:

Area	2000			2010			Percent Change, 2000 to 2010	
	Total Population	65 Years and over		Total Population	65 Years and over		Total Population	65 years and over
		Number	Per-cent		Number	Per-cent		
RI	1,048,319	152,402	14.5%	1,052,567	151,881	14.4%	0.4%	-0.3%
US	281,421,906	34,991,753	12.4%	308,745,538	40,267,984	13.0%	9.7%	15.1%

- In Rhode Island, for every one Rhode Island resident added between 2000 and 2010, there were approximately 2.5 health care workers added. Nationally, approximately for every ten residents added in the US during this period, there was just under one health care worker added.

Another fact stemming from census data in relation to the health care industry reveals that the elderly population (65 years or older) in Rhode Island has actually decreased between 2000 and 2010. According to the 2010 Census, there were 521 (-0.3%) fewer elderly people residing in Rhode Island since the Census 2000 elderly population count of 152,402. Nationally, the number of elderly people residing in the US during this period increased by 15.1 percent or 5.3 million since the Census 2000. While Rhode Island's share of elderly residents in 2010 (14.4%) exceeded the national (13.0%) share of elderly residents, the gap is narrowing. In 2000, Rhode Island's share of elderly residents was 2.1 percentage points higher than the national share of elderly residents. In 2010, Rhode Island's share of elderly residents was only 1.4 percentage points higher than the national share.

- In 2010, there were approximately two elderly residents in RI for every health care worker. In comparison, there were approximately three elderly residents in the US for every health care worker.

The Census 2000 and 2010 Census surveys also published that the number of individuals 85 years and over in Rhode Island has increased. In 2010, there were 26,750 individuals 85 years and older in Rhode Island, up 5,853 (+28.0%) from 20,897 in 2000. Those 85 years and older in Rhode Island represented 2.5 percent of the total population in 2010 up from the 2.0 percent represented in 2000. Nationally, the number of those 85 years and older increased by 1.2 million (+29.6%) and represented 1.8 percent of the total population. In 2000, the number of people 85 years and older represented 1.5 percent of the total U.S. population.

In conclusion, despite the minor population growth in Rhode Island between 2000 and 2010, in conjunction with the decrease in the elderly population, the Rhode Island health care industry flourished when compared to the total population growth and elderly population growth experienced in the United States.

85 Years and Over				
	2000	2010	Change	
RI	20,897	26,750	5,853	28.0%
US	4,239,587	5,493,433	1,253,846	29.6%

\*The health care industry consists of the ambulatory health care services sector, hospitals sector and nursing and residential care facilities sector.