

Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island

RI LIFE INDEX

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Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Rhode Island (BCBSRI) understands that achieving comprehensive health and well-being for all Rhode Islanders is rooted in understanding how social determinants of health affect its community. The RI Life Index, commissioned by BCBSRI and developed in partnership with the Brown University School of Public Health, is an annual statewide survey that captures Rhode Islanders' perceptions of social determinants of health in their communities and identifies areas of opportunity for improvement.

In its third year, the 2021 RI Life Index was conducted in 14 languages and surveyed 2,500 Rhode Islanders. Respondents were asked questions about housing availability and affordability; programs and services for children and older adults; food security, economic situation, managing health problems; confidence using technology, and other factors that may impact their ability to lead healthy lives. Data gleaned from this survey allows the research team to examine barriers and trends related to social determinants of health.

The RI Life Index serves as an evolving guide for BCBSRI to address the holistic well-being of Rhode Island residents. The ongoing initiative allows BCBSRI to focus on the areas that Rhode Islanders deem most integral to improved health and well-being and measures the progress of BCBSRI's efforts in this arena. As the program continues, BCBSRI will adapt, listen, learn and act to improve Rhode Islanders' well-being by addressing social factors that influence outcomes across the state.



"This survey tells us a lot about the barriers the people of Rhode Island face every day to achieving health, especially people of color and people living in lower socioeconomic communities. Directly connecting with Rhode Islanders and listening to them closely through the RI Life Index, lets us ensure that efforts to address public health take everyone into account and can have impact on the most vulnerable people in our communities."

– Dr. Ashish Jha, dean of the Brown University School of Public Health
(currently on leave, serving as White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator)

