



## COMMON VISION

Healthy communities  
and widespread equity  
for all

# KEY FACTS

## New England Policies and Populations

**New England communities represent the full spectrum of American society.** Every day, they face a range of socio-economic challenges and experience the entwined realities of racial, economic and gender-based barriers. While a portion of the region fares well economically, and many others qualify for services that improve their well-being, numerous families are forced to live in crushing poverty and survive on low wages.

Similarly, thousands of people cycle through the criminal justice system, affecting their employment and their mobility. And while high school and college graduation rates are impressive throughout New England, for most, access to a quality, affordable education remains as elusive as affordable health care; in turn, the physical and mental health of thousands deteriorates. **While some thrive, far too many fall through the cracks.**

Now imagine the world, for a moment, through the perspective of an immigrant, a transgender person, a senior, a person with a disability or someone living with HIV/AIDS. **How is opportunity understood? Where are the inequities most deeply felt?** For women, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people, the New England policy context of reproductive justice and LGBTQ legislation frames their lives and dictates their choices; here, there are both legislative wins and policy gaps.

And for all of us craving a just, sustainable world, an environmental urgency floats in the air we breathe, permeates the ecosystems we inhabit and drifts in the water we consume.

**Now imagine a better world.**

**Recognizing that a healthy community with widespread equity** meets the specific, interrelated needs of all of its members, Common Vision has compiled a current research review of New England that spans more than 80 variables within 11 areas of interest, including the general population, criminal justice, economics, education, the environment, grantmaking, health, HIV/AIDS, immigration, LGBTQ rights and reproductive justice. In anticipation of this full research review—to be presented at the first Common Vision meeting, as part of a regional grantmaker dialogue about healthy communities and widespread equity—we offer this preview of New England policies and populations.

**MORE THAN 14 MILLION PEOPLE LIVE IN NEW ENGLAND AND ROUGHLY HALF ARE FEMALE. FURTHER, MANY IN THE REGION LIVE WITH A DISABILITY; ARE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER; AND ARE 65 YEARS AND OLDER.**

	Total Population	% Female	% By Disability	% Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual	% 65 Years and Older
Connecticut	3.5 million	51.3	12.9	4.5	13.4
Maine	1.3 million	51.2	19.4	5.2	14.6
Massachusetts	6.4 million	51.6	13.9	5.7	13.3
New Hampshire	1.3 million	50.8	14.0	6.6	12.3
Rhode Island	1 million	51.8	15.8	3.4	13.8
Vermont	624,000	50.9	16.7	5.1	13.3

Note: “Percent LGB” estimates the percentage of the population that is lesbian, gay or bisexual, based on population data from 2006. Figures on the number of transgender people, per state, are not available.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey; and Gary J. Gates, PhD, *Same-Sex Couples and the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Population: New Estimates from the American Community Survey* (The Williams Institute: Los Angeles, 2006).

WHILE THE RACIAL/ETHNIC COMPOSITION OF EACH STATE IN NEW ENGLAND IS PREDOMINANTLY WHITE, MANY PEOPLE OF COLOR RESIDE THROUGHOUT THE REGION.

	% Whites	% American Indian/Alaska Native	% Asian	% Black/African American	% Hispanic/Latino	Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander
Connecticut	79.9	0.2	3.3	9.5	11.2	0.0
Maine	95.8	0.5	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.0
Massachusetts	82.8	0.2	4.8	6.1	7.9	0.1
New Hampshire	95.1	0.2	2.0	1.1	2.3	0.0
Rhode Island	82.6	0.4	2.8	5.1	11.0	0.0
Vermont	96.3	0.4	0.9	0.8	1.1	0.0

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey.

AMONG BLACK AND HISPANIC POPULATIONS IN EVERY NEW ENGLAND STATE, ADULT INCARCERATION AND JUVENILE CUSTODY RATES ARE SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER THAN AMONG THEIR WHITE COUNTERPARTS.

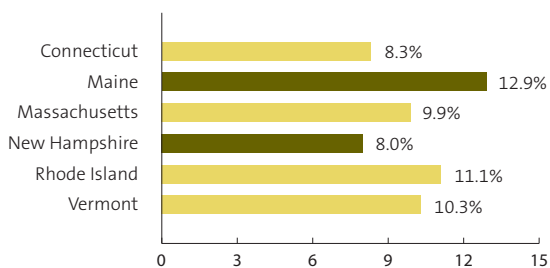
	Adult Incarceration Rate (per 100,000)			Juvenile Custody Rate (per 100,000)		
	White	Black	Hispanic	White	Black	Hispanic
Connecticut	211	2,532	1,401	105	669	316
Maine	262	1,992	N/A	149	182	188
Massachusetts	201	1,635	1,229	111	811	522
New Hampshire	289	2,666	1,063	144	579	197
Rhode Island	191	1,838	631	192	1,425	188
Vermont	304	3,797	N/A	143	715	273

Notes: "Incarceration Rates by Race" calculates the incarceration rate of white, black and Hispanic people incarcerated in prisons or jails in 2005, per 100,000. "Juvenile Custody Rates by Race" calculates the rate of white, black and Hispanic juveniles in custody in juvenile facilities, per 100,000, on October 23, 2003.

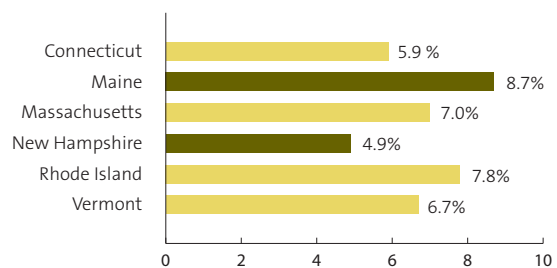
Sources: Mauer, Marc and Ryan S. King, *Uneven Justice: State Rates of Incarceration by Race and Ethnicity* (New York: The Sentencing Project, 2007); and Snyder, Howard N., and Melissa, Sickmund, *Juvenile Offenders and Victims: 2006 National Report* (Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 2006).

ROUGHLY ONE IN 10 NEW ENGLAND RESIDENTS IS LIVING IN POVERTY; AMONG NEW ENGLAND STATES, NEW HAMPSHIRE HAS THE LOWEST PERCENTAGE OF INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES LIVING IN POVERTY WHILE MAINE HAS THE HIGHEST.

% OF INDIVIDUALS IN POVERTY BY STATE



% OF FAMILIES IN POVERTY BY STATE



Note: "Percent of Individuals and Families in Poverty" estimates the percentage of individuals and families in 2006 below the poverty line established by the federal government. According to the U.S. Census, in regards to the American Community Survey, "The data on poverty status of households were derived from answers to the income questions, determined by the poverty status of the householder. Households are classified as poor when the total income of the householder's family is below the appropriate poverty threshold. The poverty thresholds vary depending on three criteria: size of family, number of related children, and, for 1- and 2-person families, age of householder."

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey.

**MASSACHUSETTS, CONNECTICUT AND RHODE ISLAND HAVE THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS, K-12, WHO ARE SERVED BY PROGRAMS OF ENGLISH ASSISTANCE.**

**K 12 PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS (ELL), 2005-06**

	% of Students	Number of Students
Connecticut	5.2	29,903
Maine	1.7	3,323
Massachusetts	5.3	51,511
New Hampshire	N/A	N/A
Rhode Island	4.9	7,518
Vermont	1.8	1,739

Note: "Percent English Language Learners" refers to the percentage of K-12 public school students served in appropriate programs of language assistance (e.g., English as a Second Language, High Intensity Language Training, bilingual education), from 2005-2006. Formerly known as "Limited-English Proficient (LEP)."

Source: National Center for Education Statistics, *State Education Data Profiles* (Washington, DC: Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education, 2005-2006), <<http://nces.ed.gov/programs/stateprofiles/>>.

**IN EVERY NEW ENGLAND STATE, THE AVERAGE NUMBER OF "GOOD" AIR QUALITY DAYS STEADILY DECREASED BETWEEN 2002 AND 2007.**

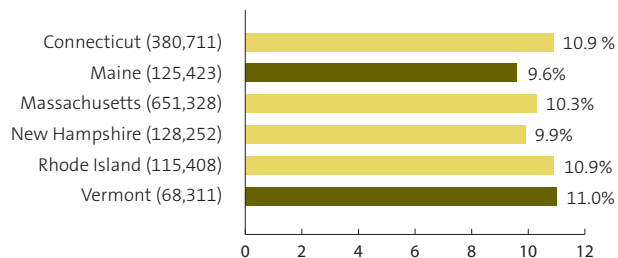
	Average Number of "Good" Air Quality Days			Rank (Based on Days in 2007)
	2002	2007	Change 2002-2007	
Connecticut	209	188	-21	4
Maine	239	216	-23	1
Massachusetts	243	205	-38	3
New Hampshire	233	208	-25	2
Rhode Island	221	184	-37	5
Vermont	253	155	-98	6

Note: "Average Number of 'Good' Air Quality Days" refers to the average number of days (calculated across counties) when the air quality index (AQI) value was between 0 and 50. "Moderate" days have an AQI value between 51 and 100, "unhealthy for sensitive groups" days have an AQI value between 101 and 150, and "unhealthy" days (including "unhealthy," "very unhealthy" and "hazardous") have an AQI value of 151 or higher.

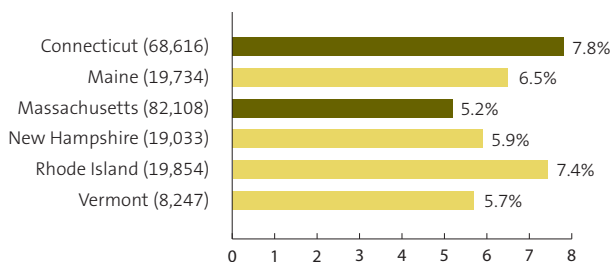
Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *Air Quality Index Report*, 2007. <<http://www.epa.gov/air/airpolldata.html>>./>.

**AMONG NEW ENGLAND STATES, CONNECTICUT HAS THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF UNINSURED CHILDREN AND THE SECOND HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF UNINSURED PEOPLE.**

**% OF UNINSURED PEOPLE BY STATE**



**% OF UNINSURED CHILDREN BY STATE**

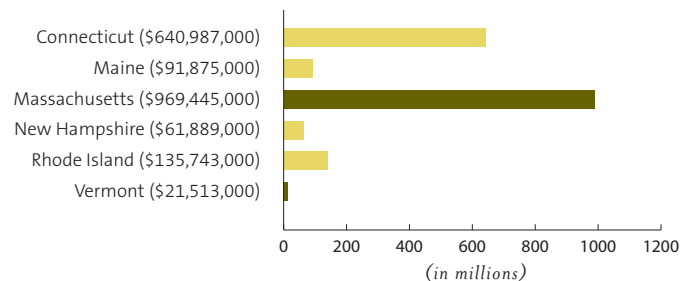


Note: "Number of Uninsured People and Children" estimates the number of people and children without health insurance in 2006.

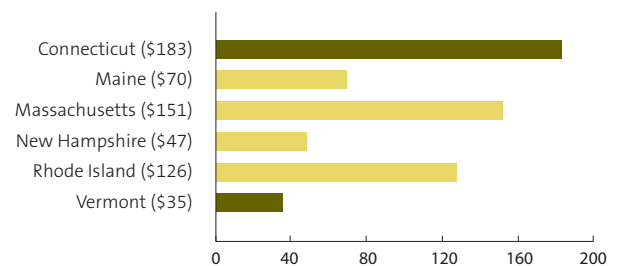
Source: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, *Cover the Uninsured: State Profiles* (Washington, DC: RWJF, 2007).

**CONNECTICUT PROVIDED THE MOST FOUNDATION GIVING PER CAPITA AMONG NEW ENGLAND STATES IN 2005, WHILE VERMONT PROVIDED THE LEAST.**

**TOTAL FOUNDATION GIVING BY STATE, 2005**



**FOUNDATION GIVING PER CAPITA BY STATE, 2005**

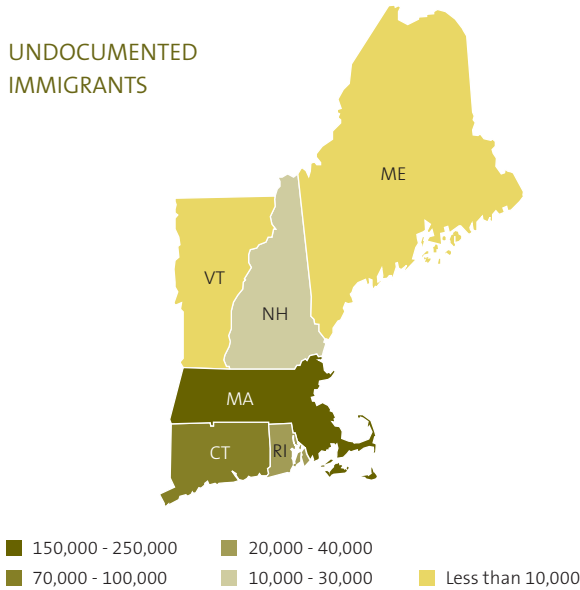


Note: From The Foundation Center: "Per capita giving figures in actual dollar amounts. Based on December 22, 2006, resident population estimates (U.S. Census Bureau)."

Source: The Foundation Center, *Foundation Yearbook*, 2007.

THOUSANDS OF UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS RESIDE THROUGHOUT NEW ENGLAND; MASSACHUSETTS AND CONNECTICUT HAVE THE LARGEST TOTAL NUMBER OF UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS.

UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS

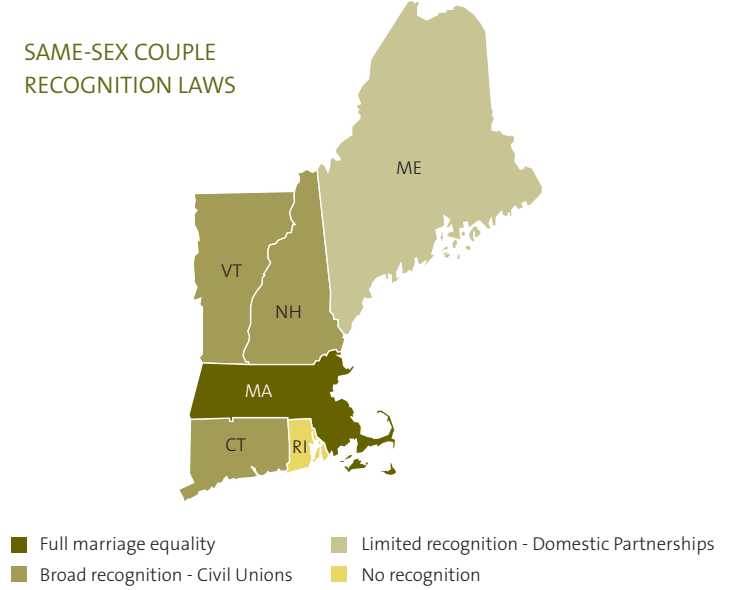


Note: "Number of Undocumented Immigrants" estimates the range of undocumented immigrants in 2005.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center, *Estimates of the Unauthorized Migrant Population for States Based on the March 2005 Current Population Survey* (Washington, DC: Pew Hispanic Center, 2006).

RHODE ISLAND IS THE ONLY NEW ENGLAND STATE WITHOUT SOME FORM OF LEGAL RECOGNITION FOR SAME-SEX COUPLES; MASSACHUSETTS OFFERS FULL MARRIAGE EQUALITY.

SAME-SEX COUPLE RECOGNITION LAWS



Note: "Same-Sex Couple Recognition" notes the type of laws that states have enacted recognizing same-sex relationships, as of September 2007.

Source: National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, *Relationship Recognition for Same-Sex Couples in the U.S.* (Washington, DC: NGLTF, 2007).

ACCORDING TO NARAL PRO-CHOICE AMERICA, RHODE ISLAND RECEIVED THE LOWEST GRADE AMONG NEW ENGLAND STATES FOR ITS OVERALL REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE; ONLY 20 PERCENT OF RHODE ISLAND'S COUNTIES HAVE ABORTION PROVIDERS. OTHER NEW ENGLAND STATES RECEIVED GRADES OF B-OR HIGHER.

	NARAL 2008 Report Card Grades	% Counties Without Abortion Providers	Rank
Connecticut	A	25.0	2
Maine	A	63.0	5
Massachusetts	B-	14.0	1
New Hampshire	A-	50.0	4
Rhode Island	D+	80.0	6
Vermont	A	43.0	3

Notes: "NARAL Pro-Choice America 2008 Report Card Grades" assesses states based on "the cumulative burdens each state imposes on access to reproductive health care," including abortion bans, biased counseling and mandatory delays, counseling ban/gag rule, etc. According to NARAL Pro-Choice America, "The ranking system adds points for anti-choice restrictions on abortion and other aspects of reproductive health care, and subtracts points for pro-choice laws. The ranking system penalizes most heavily the laws imposing greater burdens on women. Likewise, its demerits fall most heavily on laws that are enforced, rather than laws that courts have declared invalid." "Percentage of Counties without Abortion Providers" calculates the percentage of counties in a state without an abortion provider. Data on abortion providers and analysis of census data was provided by the Guttmacher Institute; 2004-2005 Guttmacher Abortion Provider Survey and U.S. Census population counts as of April 1, 2005.

Sources: NARAL Pro-Choice America, *Who Decides? The Status of Women's Reproductive Rights in the United States, 17th Edition* (Washington, DC: NARAL, 2008); and NARAL Pro-Choice America, *Who Decides State Profiles* (Washington, DC: NARAL, 2007).

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Common Vision is a national, multi-year initiative that will convene grantmakers in various states and regions of the country who share an interest in creating healthy communities and widespread equity. Led by 15 national philanthropic partners across issues and identities, Common Vision is a collaborative project of Funders for Lesbian and Gay Issues.

Research: Robert Espinoza, Director of Research and Communications, Funders for Lesbian and Gay Issues

116 East 16th Street, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10003  
 Tel 212 475 2930  
 Fax 212 982 3321  
[www.lgbtfunders.org/CommonVision](http://www.lgbtfunders.org/CommonVision)