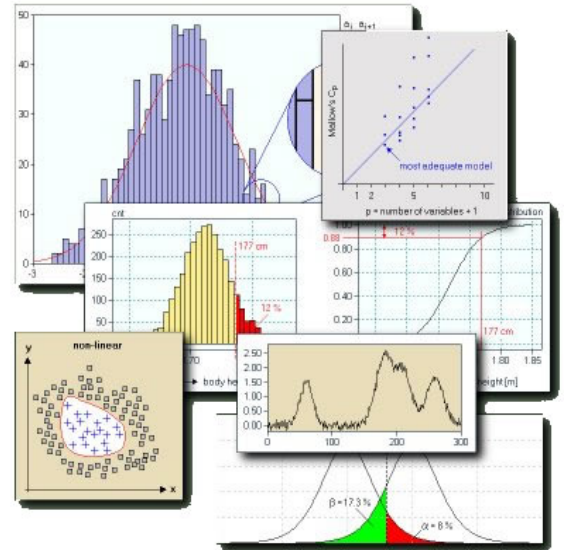


75 Washington Ave. Suite 2C  
Portland, ME 04101

(207) 767-6440  
www.marketdecisions.com



# Data Compendium FAQ's

## 2016 Rhode Island Health Insurance Survey

### Freedman Healthcare and the State of Rhode Island

Prepared by:

Brian Robertson, Ph.D. Director of Research  
[brianr@marketdecisions.com](mailto:brianr@marketdecisions.com)

Mark Noyes, Research Analyst  
[mnoyes@marketdecisions.com](mailto:mnoyes@marketdecisions.com)

## Using the Data Compendium & FAQ

### Questions about the Data Compendium

#### ***What is the data compendium?***

The data compendium summarizes and displays the results of each question in the Rhode Island Health Insurance Survey.

#### ***Does the Table of Contents list each question?***

Yes, click on any question to display the summarized results. You may also click on any question from the bottom of each page in the compendium.

### Questions about Viewing the Summarized Results

#### ***Are results displayed for all respondents and by demographic groups?***

Yes, each page displays the results from all respondents to a question and displays the results by several demographics such as age and marital status, as well as other areas of interest such as type of insurance.

#### ***What do the column labels on each page mean?***

- **Total** is the estimate that represents the total population or number of individuals in a demographic group that answered each question. (The sample of individuals in the data set for a question was weighted to produce an estimate of the total population or demographic group)
- **Count** is the number of respondents that responded giving a specific answer to the question. For example, if you look at the tab labeled “insure,” in the row labelled “Overall,” and then look across at the column labeled “Private Insurance”, the number under **Count** is 5,317. This indicates that 5,317 people were indicated to have private health insurance in 2016.
- **Weighted Count** is the weighted estimate of all Rhode Island residents based upon the sample of respondents giving a specific answer. For example, if you look at the tab labeled “insure,” in the row labelled “Overall,” and then look across at the column labeled “Private Insurance”, the number under **Weighted Count** is 544,558. This indicates that we estimate that 544,558 of all Rhode Island residents would respond that they have private health insurance (as their primary type of insurance in case of dual coverage) if a census were conducted. For more details on weighting, see the Analytical Plan addendum.
- **%** is the percentage of residents within a group providing a given response.
- **LCI and UCI** stand for lower confidence interval and upper confidence interval. A census of every customer would produce a value within the range bound by LCI and UCI. These are calculated at the 95% confidence interval.

### ***Why do questions starting with the label ‘MR’ display differently than other questions?***

MR is used to refer to multiple response questions. This means respondents could provide multiple responses to a single question, all of which would be valid. Confidence intervals and measures of significance are not computed for questions with multiple responses.

## **Questions about Significant Differences**

### ***What is significance testing?***

Significance tests compare results of quantitative analysis in order to determine if differences are attributable to random chance. Results are said to be statistically significant if the differences present are greater than the variation that could be expected randomly, given the sample size and design parameters.

### ***What kind of significance testing was conducted on the results of the Rhode Island Health Insurance Survey?***

Results were subjected to confidence interval comparison. This test was selected because it is the most conservative method of significance testing and least likely to produce “false positives,” that is, results that appear significant because of the parameters of the test but are unlikely to be truly meaningful. In confidence interval comparison, the LCI and UCI (see above) are compared. If these ranges do not overlap, the difference is said to be significant.

For example, a value with an LCI of 90% and a UCI of 95% would be said to be significantly higher than a value with an LCI of 80% and a UCI of 85%.

### ***What comparisons are made in the data compendium?***

For the results of the Rhode Island Health Insurance Survey, select demographic groups of interest are displayed in the data compendium. These groups are compared against the population of Rhode Island as a whole in 2016 (the values in the rows labeled “Overall”). In addition, results are compared within answer categories. For example, results are presented by Gender. On the tab labelled “insure,” the rate of male individuals with a private health insurance plan are compared to all individuals with a private health insurance plan, but not against those with military plan, or females with a private health insurance plan.

### ***How are significant differences displayed?***

A group with a significantly higher rate within an answer category than the overall population is highlighted in green. A group with a significantly lower rate within an answer category than the overall population is highlighted in red. Keep in mind when reviewing these results that “higher” and “lower” refers to the value of the rates, not to positivity. For example, a group with a higher rate of uninsured individuals than the general population would be colored in green despite this not necessarily being a desirable outcome.