

WESTERLY, RI

SOCIOECONOMICS OF SEA LEVEL RISE COASTAL FACTSHEET



PROJECT OVERVIEW

Rhode Island's municipalities are in the preliminary stages of integrating planning for sea level rise and climate change into their comprehensive planning process. To support these planning efforts of RI cities and towns, RISPP developed the Socioeconomics of Sea Level Rise project. The project aims to assist coastal municipalities in their long-term planning by attempting to identify population characteristics of **the people** located within sea level rise (SLR) inundation zones 1, 3, 5 and 7 FT. The data presented in this factsheet places a focus on Environmental Justice and Title VI populations.

METHODOLOGY

The RISPP utilized 2010 Decennial Census data and the latest American Community Survey (ACS) estimates to conduct an extensive data analysis. Staff also utilized CRMC's STORMTOOLS GIS shapefiles to identify the SLR inundation zones. In addition, RI Geographic Information Systems (RIGIS) e-911 data was utilized to identify single family, multi-family and mobile home residential points located within each SLR inundation zone. For more information on the methodology, please reference the [full report](#) on our website.

WESTERLY QUICK FACTS

22,787

2010 Census Population

44.3

2010 Census Median Age

\$62,381

2014 ACS Median Household Income

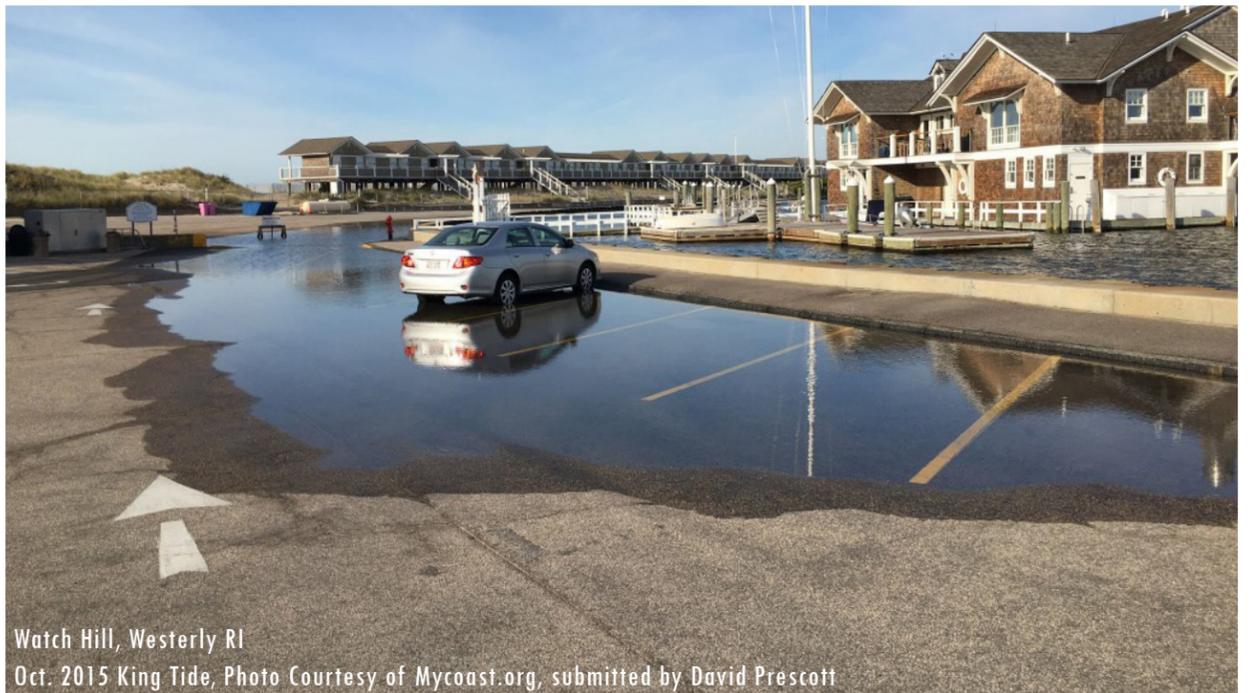
WESTERLY'S OCCUPIED RESIDENTIAL UNITS & POPULATION ESTIMATES

Westerly is one of Rhode Island's 21 coastal communities, located in the southwest corner of the state.

The Town of Westerly has an average household size of 2.34 (2010 Census). The average household size and the percentage of occupied housing units were used to calculate population estimates. Approximately 41-45% of the residential units located within SLR inundation zones 3, 5 and 7 FT. are occupied units.

Single family (SF) units and multi-family (MF) units were identified in GIS using the e-911 shapefile. The majority of the residential units located in the SLR inundation zones are single family units. There is a significant change between the estimated population located in the 3 and 5 FT. inundation zone, with an additional 262 people estimated in the 5 FT. zone. The 7 FT. inundation zone has the greatest population and number of residential units, with 618 people estimated within the zone and 264 occupied residential units.

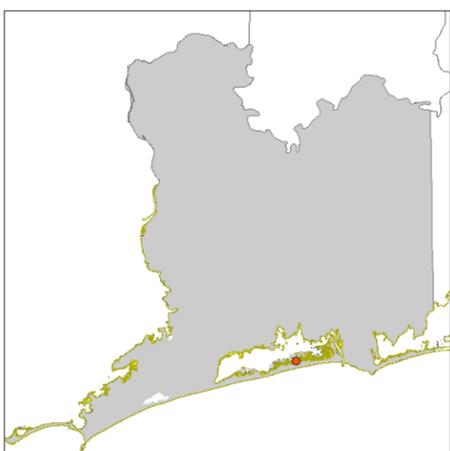
SLR Inundation zone	Residential Units	Occupied Unit calculation (Total Units (x) Occ. Housing Unit Rate in SLR zone)	Population calculation (Occupied Units (x) Westerly Avg. HH Size)
1FT.	0	0	0
3FT.	54 SF, 7 MF	28 (41% occ. HU)	66
5FT.	302 SF, 14 MF	140 (42% occ. HU)	328
7FT.	530 SF, 26 MF	264 (45% occ. HU)	618



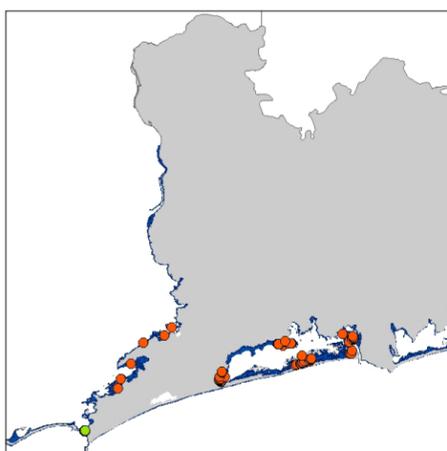
SLR INUNDATION ZONES

The maps above illustrate each of the SLR inundation zones. Single family units are represented by orange points in the SLR inundation zone maps, while multi-family units are represented by green points.

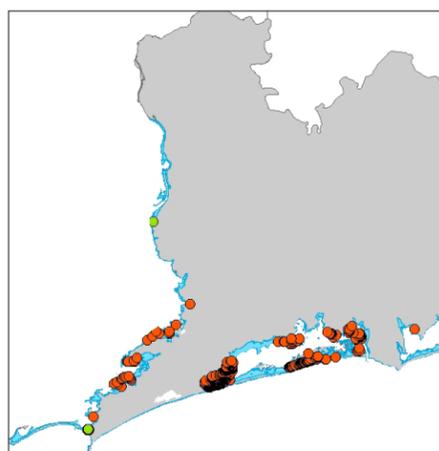
SLR 1 FT.



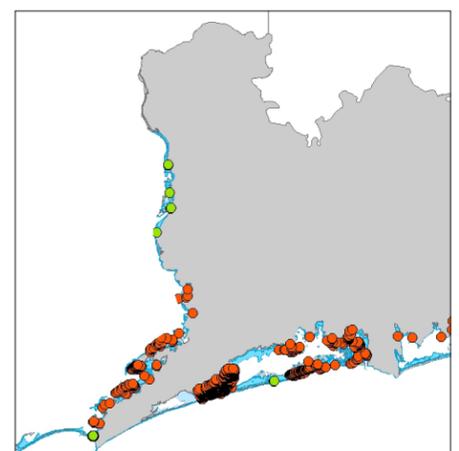
SLR 3 FT.



SLR 5 FT.



SLR 7 FT.



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SLR 1

EST. POPULATION: 0
EST. OCCUPIED HOUSEHOLDS: 0

There were zero residential units located within the e-911 shapefile in the 1 FT. SLR inundation scenario. Please note, a zero value does not imply that zero people or structures will be impacted in a 1 FT. SLR scenario.

SLR 3

EST. POPULATION: 66
EST. OCCUPIED HOUSEHOLDS: 28

98% or 64 - White
0% - Black
1% or 1 - American Indian/Alaska Native
0% - Asian
1% or 1 - Hispanic
3% or 2 - Minority

 **17%**
or 11 - Age 75 or older

SLR 5

EST. POPULATION: 328
EST. OCCUPIED HOUSEHOLDS: 140

98% or 320 - White
0.3% or 1 - Black
1% or 2 - American Indian/Alaska Native
0.4% or 1 - Asian
2% or 5 - Hispanic
3% or 11 - Minority

 **17%**
or 55 - Age 75 or older

SLR 7

EST. POPULATION: 618
EST. OCCUPIED HOUSEHOLDS: 264

98% or 603 - White
0.3% or 2 - Black
0.4% or 3 - American Indian/Alaska Native
0.3% or 2 - Asian
1% or 9 - Hispanic
3% or 20 - Minority

 **15%**
or 92 - Age 75 or older

RACE & AGE

SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS



10% or 3 are Individuals with Disabilities

1% or 0.3 are Limited English Proficiency Households

10% or 4 are Unemployed

12% or 8 are Individuals Below Poverty Level

3% or 1 Households receive SSI

8% or 11 are Individuals with Disabilities

1% or 2 are Limited English Proficiency Households

9% or 18 are Unemployed

10% or 34 are Individuals Below Poverty Level

4% or 5 Households receive SSI

8% or 21 are Individuals with Disabilities

1% or 3 are Limited English Proficiency Households

9% or 33 are Unemployed

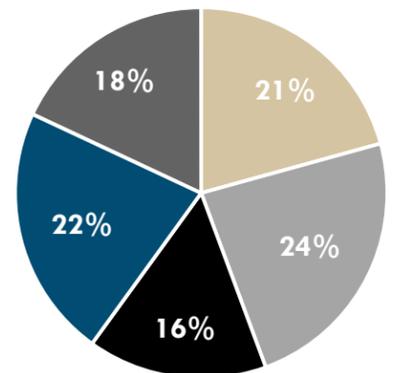
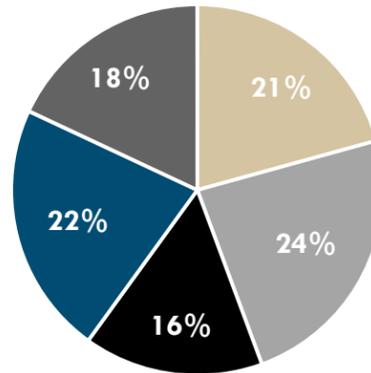
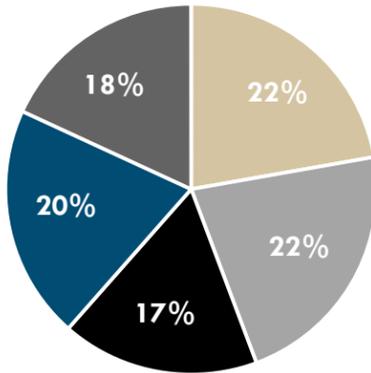
10% or 63 are Individuals Below Poverty Level

4% or 9 Households receive SSI

HOUSEHOLD INCOME



- In Estimated Occupied Housing Units



■ Less than 24,999K ■ 25,000 to 49,999 ■ 50,000 to 74,999 ■ 75,000 to 124,999 ■ 125,000 and up

HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS



- Percent of Population in Housing Type

17% Renter Occupied
22% Owned Outright



17% Renter Occupied
22% Owned Outright



17% Renter Occupied
22% Owned Outright



*No Residential Units within 1FT SLR Scenario

Variable Name	Sea Level Rise (SLR)						Count
	SLR 3	SLR 3 %	SLR 5	SLR 5 %	SLR 7	SLR 7 %	
e911 Housing Unit Total							
Single Family (R1) Units	54		302		530		
Multifamily (R2) Units with Calculation (*2)	7*2=14		14*2=28		26*2=52		
Mobile Home (R3) Units	0		0		0		
Total Units: Single Family (R1), Multifamily (R2), Mobile Home (R3)	68		330		582		
Note: Multifamily unit totals are multiplied by 2 based on the presumption that there are a minimum of two units within each multifamily e911 point							
Variable Name	Sea Level Rise (SLR)				Count & Percentage		
e911 Occupied Housing Unit Calculation	SLR 3	SLR 3 %	SLR 5	SLR 5 %	SLR 7	SLR 7 %	
Total Units: Single Family (R1), Multifamily (R2), Mobile Home (R3)	68	100%	330	100%	582	100%	
Estimated Occupied Units - Count and Percentage	28	41%	140	42%	264	45%	
Population Calculation	SLR 3		SLR 5		SLR 7		SLR 7 %
Estimated Occupied Units	28	100%	140	100%	264	100%	
Population Estimate= Occupied Units (x) Municipal Avg. Household Size (2.34)	28*2.34=66		140*2.34=328		264*2.34=618		
Race/Hispanic Ethnicity	SLR 3	SLR 3 %	SLR 5	SLR 5 %	SLR 7	SLR 7 %	
Total Population (in Occupied Housing Units)	66	100%	328	100%	618	100%	
White	64	98%	320	98%	603	98%	
Black or African American	0	0%	1	0.3%	2	0.3%	
American Indian and Alaska Native	1	1%	2	1%	3	0.4%	
Asian	0	0%	1	0.4%	2	0.3%	
Some Other Race	0	0%	1	0.4%	2	0.3%	
Hispanic	1	1%	5	2%	9	1%	
Non-Hispanic, White Population	64	97%	317	97%	598	97%	
Minority Population (Total Population minus Non-Hispanic, White Population)	2	3%	11	3%	20	3%	
Age	SLR 3	SLR 3 %	SLR 5	SLR 5 %	SLR 7	SLR 7 %	
Total Population (in Occupied Housing Units)	66	100%	328	100%	618	100%	
Young Children (<5)	2	4%	11	3%	21	3%	
School-Age Children (5-17)	6	9%	33	10%	66	11%	
Age 18-24	3	5%	15	5%	32	5%	
Age 25-44	9	14%	51	15%	101	16%	
Age 45-64	24	37%	116	35%	218	35%	
Age 65-74	10	15%	47	14%	88	14%	
Age ≥75	11	17%	55	17%	92	15%	
Population 16-64 (For Individuals with a disability variable) [†]	29	43%	142	43%	267	43%	
Population ≥25 (For educational attainment variable)	55	83%	269	82%	499	81%	
Population ≥16 (For employment variable) [†]	38	58%	189	58%	356	58%	
Population ≥65 (For age ≥65 in group quarters variable) [†]	21	32%	102	31%	180	29%	
Disability	SLR 3	SLR 3 %	SLR 5	SLR 5 %	SLR 7	SLR 7 %	
Total Population (in Occupied Housing Units, age 16-64)	29	100%	142	100%	267	100%	
Individuals with Disabilities	3	10%	11	8%	21	8%	
Limited English Proficiency (LEP)	SLR 3	SLR 3 %	SLR 5	SLR 5 %	SLR 7	SLR 7 %	
Estimated Occupied Housing Units	28	100%	140	100%	264	100%	
Limited English Proficiency Households	0.3	1%	2	1%	3	1%	
Educational Attainment	SLR 3	SLR 3 %	SLR 5	SLR 5 %	SLR 7	SLR 7 %	
Total Population (in Occupied Housing Units, age ≥25)	55	100%	269	100%	499	100%	
Less than a High School Diploma or Equivalent	6	11%	26	10%	49	10%	
High School Diploma or GED	14	25%	68	25%	127	25%	
Professional School	1	1%	3	1%	6	1%	
Associate's/Bachelor's	16	30%	85	32%	158	32%	
Master's/PhD	7	13%	35	13%	65	13%	
Other (Some College)	11	20%	51	19%	95	19%	
Employment	SLR 3	SLR 3 %	SLR 5	SLR 5 %	SLR 7	SLR 7 %	
Total Population (in Occupied Housing Units, age ≥16)	38	100%	189	100%	356	100%	
Employed	34	90%	171	90%	320	90%	
Unemployed	4	10%	18	9%	33	9%	
Job Industry ‡	SLR 3	SLR 3 %	SLR 5	SLR 5 %	SLR 7	SLR 7 %	
Total Population (age ≥16 and employed)	34	100%	171	100%	320	100%	
Agriculture, forestry, fishing & hunting, mining	0	0%	1	0%	1	0.3%	
Construction	2	6%	10	6%	18	6%	
Manufacturing	4	12%	20	12%	38	12%	
Wholesale trade	0.5	1%	2	1%	5	1%	
Retail trade	4	12%	20	12%	37	12%	
Transportation & warehousing, utilities	1.0	3%	5	3%	9	3%	
Information	0.7	2%	3	2%	6	2%	
Finance & insurance, real estate, rental & leasing	2	6%	9	6%	18	6%	
Professional, scientific, management, administrative, waste management services	3	8%	14	8%	26	8%	
Educational services, health care, social assistance	9	26%	43	26%	82	26%	
Arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation & food services	6	18%	30	18%	57	18%	
Other services (except public administration)	1	3%	6	3%	11	3%	
Public administration	1	4%	7	4%	13	4%	
Income	SLR 3	SLR 3 %	SLR 5	SLR 5 %	SLR 7	SLR 7 %	
Estimated Occupied Housing Units	28	100%	140	100%	264	100%	
Less than \$24,999K	6	22%	29	21%	55	21%	
\$25,000 to 49,999	6	22%	33	24%	62	24%	
\$50,000 to 74,999	5	17%	22	16%	41	16%	
\$75,000 to 124,999	6	20%	31	22%	58	22%	
\$125,000 and greater	5	18%	25	18%	48	18%	
Total Population (in Occupied Housing Units)	66	100%	328	100%	618	100%	
Income Below Poverty Level	8	12%	34	10%	63	10%	
Income Above Poverty Level	58	88%	294	90%	555	90%	
Estimated Occupied Housing Units	28	100%	140	100%	264	100%	
With Social Security Income (SSI) Households	1	3%	5	4%	9	4%	
Without Social Security Income (SSI) Households	27	97%	135	96%	255	96%	
Housing Occupancy	SLR 3	SLR 3 %	SLR 5	SLR 5 %	SLR 7	SLR 7 %	
Total Housing Units	68	100%	330	100%	582	100%	
Occupied Housing Units	28	41%	140	42%	264	45%	
Vacant Housing Units	40	59%	190	58%	318	55%	
Estimated Occupied Housing Units	28	100%	140	100%	264	100%	
Owner-Occupied Housing Units	20	72%	98	70%	185	70%	
Renter-Occupied Housing Units	8	28%	42	30%	79	30%	
Total Population (in Occupied Housing Units)	66	100%	328	100%	618	100%	
Population in Group Quarters	3	4%	9	3%	13	2%	
Total Population (age ≥65)	21	100%	102	100%	180	100%	
Age ≥65 in Group Quarters [†]	1	5%	4	4%	8	4%	
Housing Tenure*	SLR 3	SLR 3 %	SLR 5	SLR 5 %	SLR 7	SLR 7 %	
Total Population (in Occupied Housing Units)	66	100%	328	100%	618	100%	
Population in Property Owned with mortgage or loan	41	61%	201	61%	379	61%	
Population in Property Owned free and clear	14	22%	71	22%	134	22%	
Population in Renter-Occupied Units	11	17%	56	17%	105	17%	
Employment and Business Unit Data‡							Count
Average Employment - Municipality							9648
Number of Units (Business - Private and Government)							853
Average Number of Workers per Unit (Business - Private and Government)							11
Workers Per Commercial Unit	SLR 3	SLR 5	SLR 7				
e911 Commercial Unit Total	24	64	123				
Average Number of Workers/Jobs per Commercial Unit	271	724	1391				

HOUSING UNITS & POPULATION

DEMOGRAPHIC
Block Level and Block Group Data

SOCIAL
Block Group Data

ECONOMIC
Block Group Data and Municipal Level Data

HOUSING
Block Level and Block Group Data

JOBS
Municipal Data & e911 Data