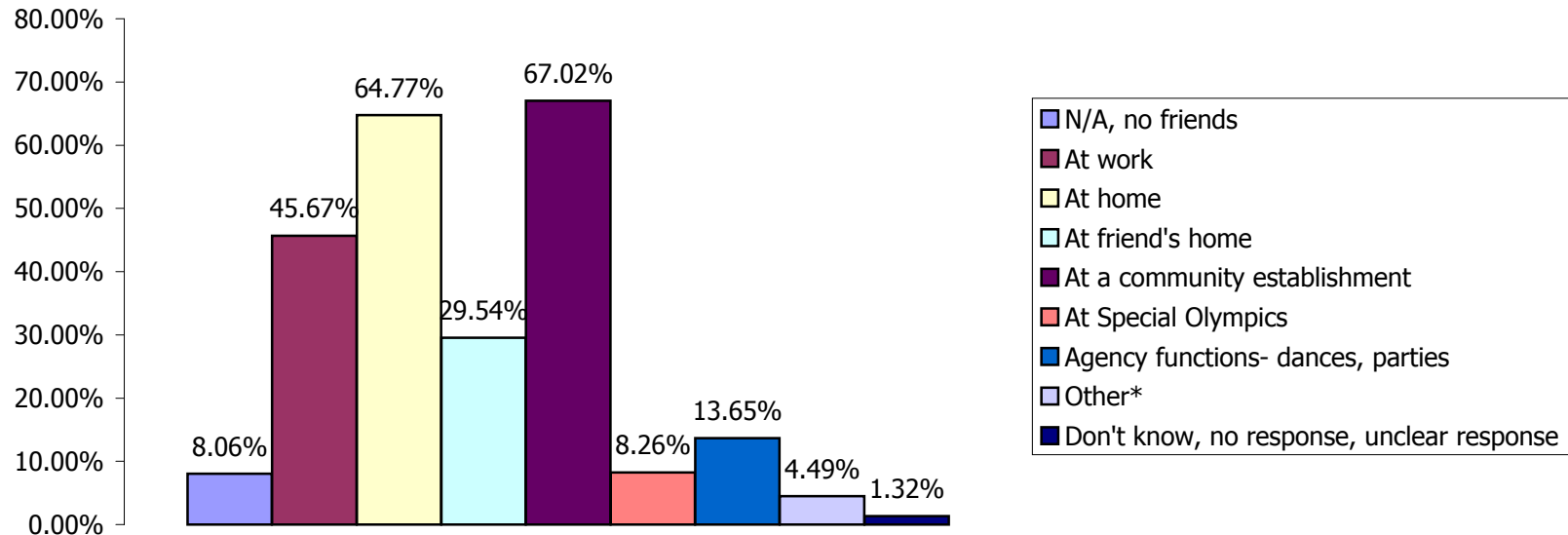




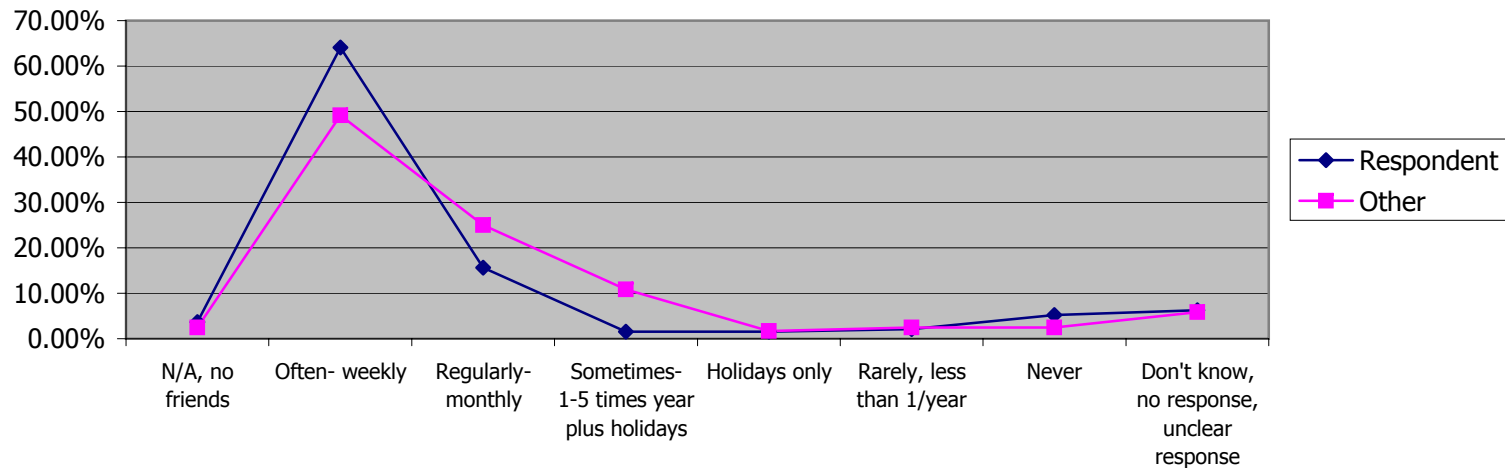
# Friendship

**Where do you see your friends?**  
(multiple answers possible)



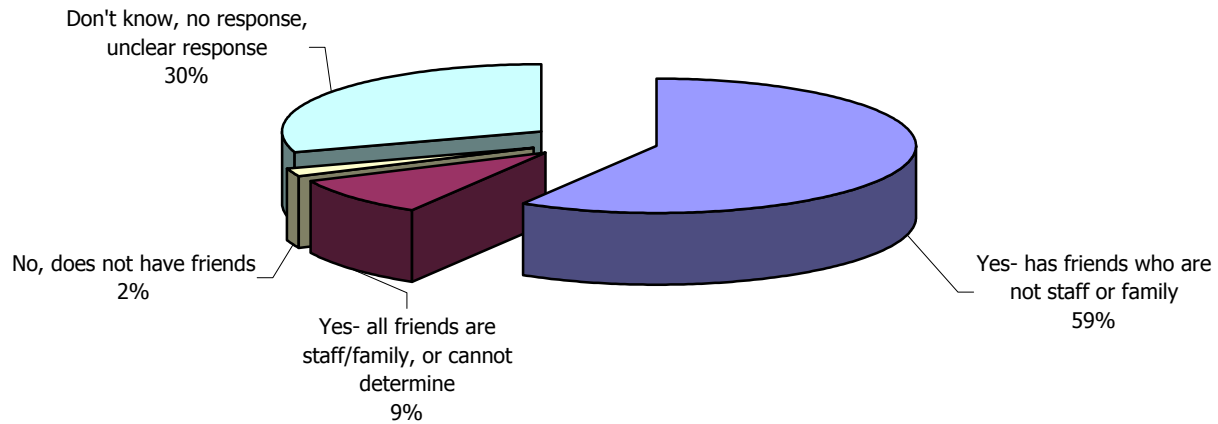
*\*Other answers include neighborhood, parties, on the bus, social clubs, school, and at other homes within their agency*

**2008 only- How often do you and your friends go out together in the community?**  
(192 people answered themselves, 120 people had "staff or family answer for them)



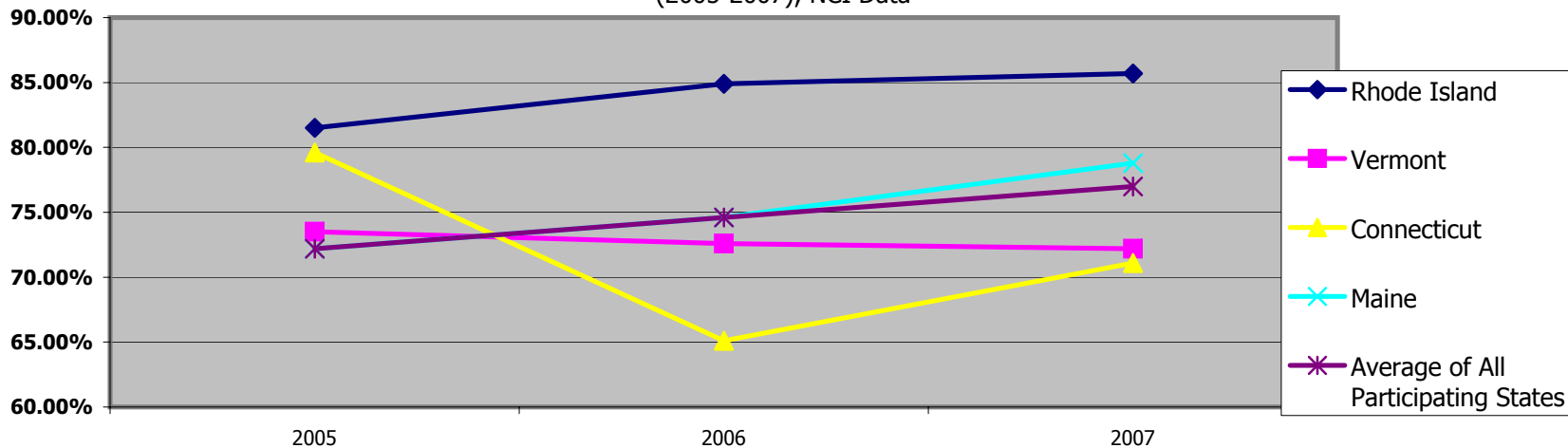
# Friendship (continued)

Do you have friends that you like to talk to or do things with?



Percent of people who report having friends with people other than support staff and family members.

(2005-2007), NCI Data



Rhode Island ranked 3.67 out of 18.67 participating states (3 year average, variable number of states per year, per question)

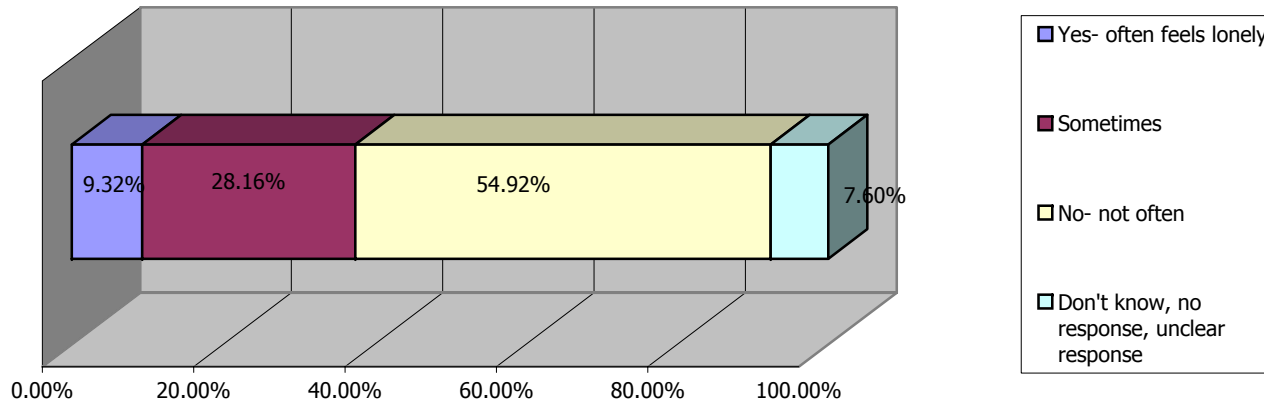
## Friendship (continued)

### ***Comments:***

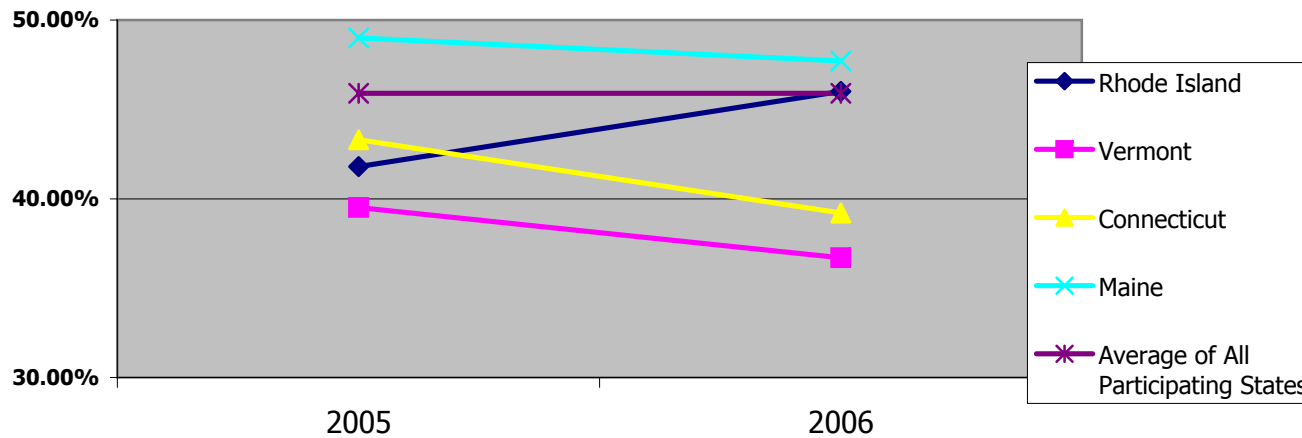
- We have always believed our data shows a higher rate of friendship than what is real. It is an uncomfortable question for people to answer truly because everyone knows how important friendship is and how hard it is to find friends outside of family, staff, housemates and co-workers.
- With continuous focus and training, there can be an increase in friendship development; however it takes time and consistent attention.

# Loneliness

Do you ever feel lonely?



**Proportion of people who feel lonely (often or sometimes).**  
(2005-2007), NCI Data



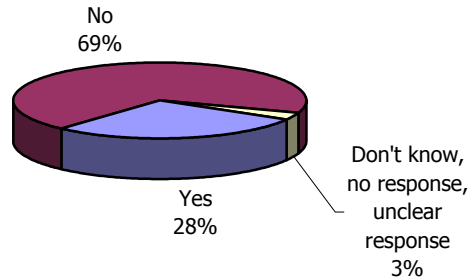
*Rhode Island ranked 9 out of 18.67 participating states (3 year average)  
(3 year average, variable number of states per year, per question)*

## Comments:

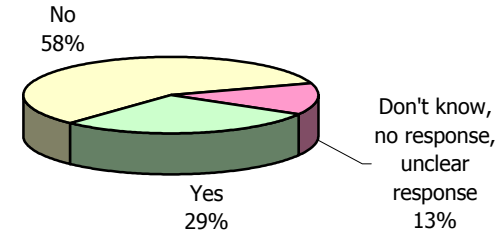
- Loneliness has had a very slight increase from 2000 through 2008
- 9.15% of people visited between 2005 and 2008 are often lonely.

# Partners

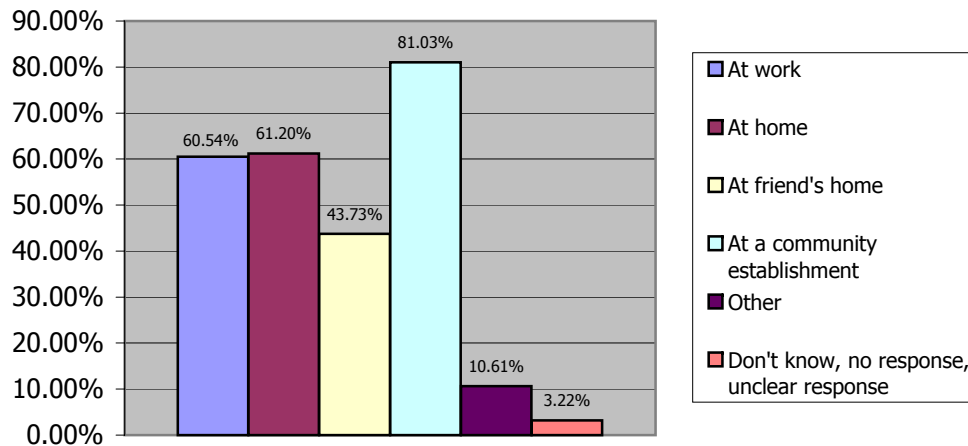
**Do you have a partner, someone you really love, like a girlfriend or boyfriend? (husband/wife)**



**If no, do you want a partner and a loving relationship, like a girlfriend or boyfriend? (husband/wife)**



**Where do you see your girlfriend or boyfriend? (multiple answers possible)**



## Comments:

- 28.33% of people visited from 2005-08 have partners, either spouse, boyfriends, girlfriends. In 2004, 29.1% of the people visited had partners.

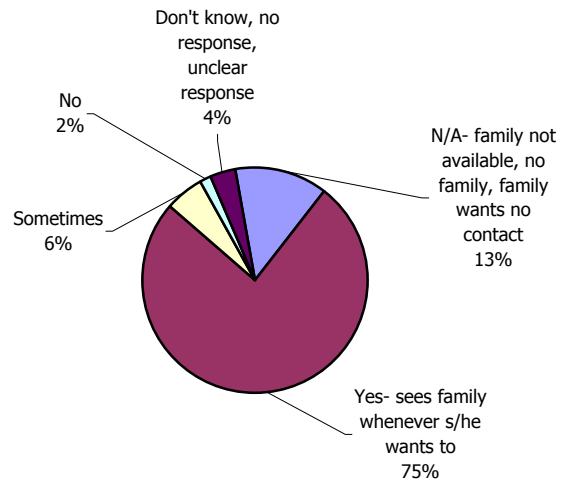
- We all know what having a loving partner brings to our life and it is our belief there is not enough opportunity for people to meet others who are supported by another agency or live in a different part of the state. More education and support for developing personal relationships is needed- for staff as well as family members.

- Approximately 3 times as many people who do not have partners do not want a partner versus want a partner. This includes people answering for themselves and other respondents answering on their behalf

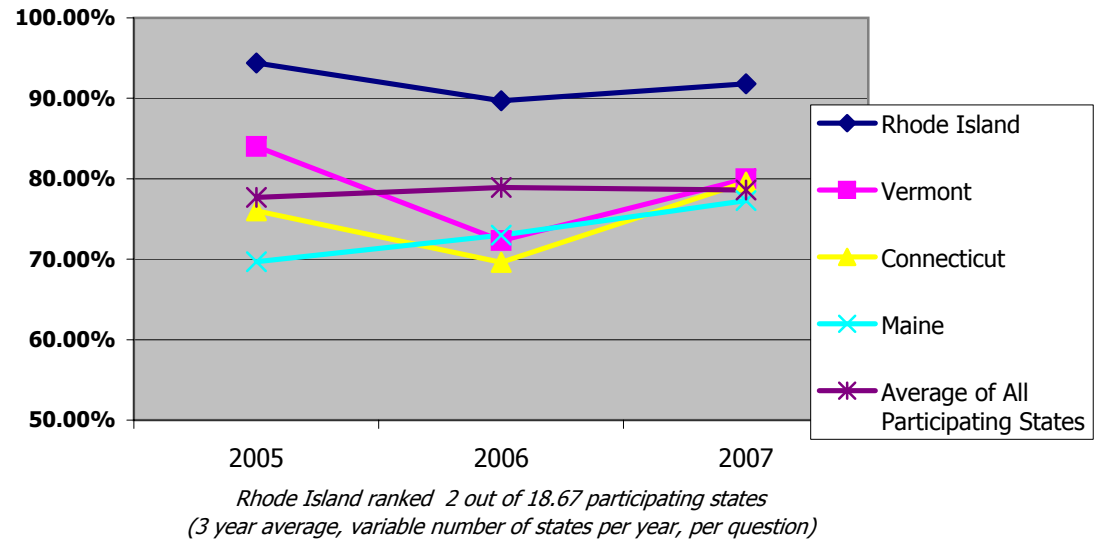
- Where do you see your friend/partner? Counting only the people who have partners (4 year total of 425), the top 4 responses were:  
 Community establishment  
 Their home  
 Work  
 Partner's home

# Family Contact

## Do you have family that you see?



## Proportion of people who are able to see their families when they want to. (2005-2007), NCI Data\*



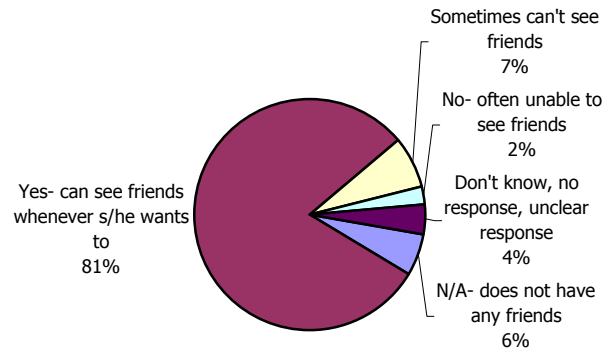
### Comments:

There are many people who live in group homes and apartments who see their family regularly, however..... Question 14, a NCI question, can be challenging for people we visit and our visitors. It specifically explains if a person lives with their family; ask about family members living outside their family's home. The target question is can a person can see the family members living outside of their home when they want to. The intent of the question is to discover if the individual can choose when to visit family and often this intent can be lost.

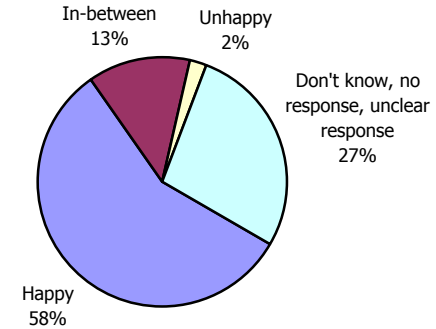
-We feel the RI data is too high and inaccurate for people seeing family when they want to. Since more people are living with their families due to limited housing options, this may also have an effect on the high numbers also.

# Support to See Friends

**Can you see your friends when you want to see them?**



**Are you happy with your personal life, or do you feel unhappy?**



## ***Comments:***

- Our visitors feel this data is inaccurate and due to shrinking resources and less transportation, the numbers of people who are supported regularly to see friends and make new friends may go down. This is unfortunate because it is a very important area for a person to have friends who are not paid people or family members.
- Are you happy with your personal life or do you feel unhappy? Using a 4 year average of only the answers happy or In-between/unhappy, 78.51% are happy with their personal life and 21.49% are in-between or unhappy with their personal life.
- Family and friends must be a priority because they are two of the most important components of our lives.

"I don't see why being sensitive to individual preferences and personal presentation should prohibit friends from seeing each other, spending time together, or choosing to live together, whether they share a disability label or not.  
But I have to wonder whether people with disabilities have been given opportunities to meet the great range of people who make up the fabric of community before making choices."

*Dale Dileo, author of Raymond's Room, TRN 2007*