

# Family and Community

# Child Population

## DEFINITION

*Child population* is the total number of children under age 18 and the percentage change between 2000 and 2010 in the total number of children under age 18.

## SIGNIFICANCE

According to the American Community Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, there were 1,056,426 Rhode Island residents in 2016. Children under age 18 make up 20% of the population. Between 2000 and 2016, Rhode Island's child population decreased by 16% from 247,822 to 208,640.<sup>1,2</sup> Between 2012 and 2016, there were 118,970 households with children under age 18 in Rhode Island, representing 29% of all households.<sup>3</sup> Twenty-six percent of Rhode Island children were under age five, 27% were ages five to nine, 29% were ages 10 to 14, and 18% were ages 15 to 17.<sup>4</sup>

In Rhode Island, between 2012 and 2016, 122,411 (58%) children under age 18 lived in married-couple households, 67,992 (32%) children lived in single-parent households, and 18,294 (9%) children lived with relatives, including grandparents and other relatives. A total of 2,975 (1%) children lived with foster families or other non-relative heads of household.

There were 697 (<1%) children and youth under age 18 who lived in group quarters and 37 (<1%) youth who were householders or spouses.<sup>5,6,7</sup>

Rhode Island's children are diverse in race, ethnicity, language, and country of origin. Mirroring national trends, the number of Hispanic children in Rhode Island has grown since 2000, both in numbers and as a percentage of the child population. Hispanics now make up 24% of children under age 18 in the United States and 23% of children under age 18 in Rhode Island.<sup>8,9,10,11</sup>

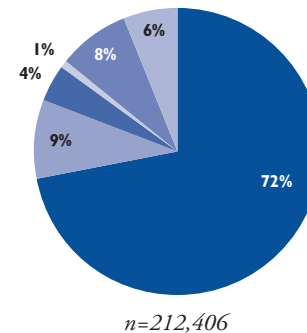
Between 2012 and 2016, there were 9,142 foreign-born children under the age of 18 living in Rhode Island, representing approximately 4% of the child population.<sup>12</sup> Of Rhode Island children ages five to 17, 77% speak only English at home, 16% speak Spanish, 4% speak other Indo-European languages, 2% speak Asian or Pacific Island languages, and 1% speak other languages at home.<sup>13</sup>

Sexual orientation is another important facet of diversity among youth. According to the *2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey*, 11% of high school students in Rhode Island described themselves as lesbian, gay, or bisexual. This does not include students who responded "not sure" when asked about their sexual orientation.<sup>14</sup>

## Rhode Island Children Under Age 18, 2012-2016

### By Race/Ethnicity\*

72%	White
9%	Black
4%	Asian
1%	American Indian and Alaska Native
8%	Some Other Race
6%	Two or More Races



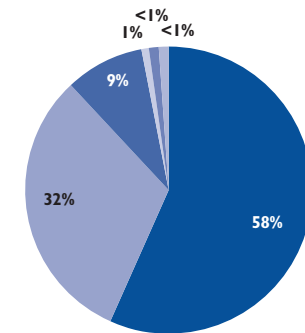
n=212,406

\*Hispanic children may be included in any race category. Of Rhode Island's 212,406 children, 49,368 (23%) were Hispanic.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012-2016. Tables B01001A, B01001B, B01001C, B01001D, B01001E, B01001F, B01001G, and B01001I.

### By Family Structure

58%	Married-Couple**
32%	Single-Parent**
9%	Other Relatives
1%	Foster Family or Other Unrelated Household
<1%	Group Quarters
<1%	Child is Head of Household



n=212,406

\*\*Only includes children who are related to the head of household by birth or adoption.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012-2016. Table B09001, B09002, and B09018.

◆ In 2016, children under age 18 made up 20% of Rhode Island's population. Of the 208,640 children under age 18 in Rhode Island in 2016, 51% were male and 49% were female.<sup>15</sup>

◆ Between 2012 and 2016, 59% of children under 18 years of age in Rhode Island lived in owner-occupied housing units and 41% lived in renter-occupied units.<sup>16</sup>

◆ Of children ages three to 17 enrolled in school in Rhode Island between 2012 and 2016, 84% were enrolled in public schools and 16% were enrolled in private schools.<sup>17</sup>

Table 1.

## Child Population, Rhode Island, 2000 and 2010

CITY/TOWN	2000 TOTAL POPULATION UNDER AGE 18	2010 TOTAL POPULATION UNDER AGE 18	CHANGE IN POPULATION UNDER AGE 18	% CHANGE IN POPULATION UNDER AGE 18
Barrington	4,745	4,597	-148	-3.1%
Bristol	4,399	3,623	-776	-17.6%
Burrillville	4,043	3,576	-467	-11.6%
Central Falls	5,531	5,644	113	2.0%
Charlestown	1,712	1,506	-206	-12.0%
Coventry	8,389	7,770	-619	-7.4%
Cranston	17,098	16,414	-684	-4.0%
Cumberland	7,690	7,535	-155	-2.0%
East Greenwich	3,564	3,436	-128	-3.6%
East Providence	10,546	9,177	-1,369	-13.0%
Exeter	1,589	1,334	-255	-16.0%
Foster	1,105	986	-119	-10.8%
Glocester	2,664	2,098	-566	-21.2%
Hopkinton	2,011	1,845	-166	-8.3%
Jamestown	1,238	1,043	-195	-15.8%
Johnston	5,906	5,480	-426	-7.2%
Lincoln	5,157	4,751	-406	-7.9%
Little Compton	780	654	-126	-16.2%
Middletown	4,328	3,652	-676	-15.6%
Narragansett	2,833	2,269	-564	-19.9%
New Shoreham	185	163	-22	-11.9%
Newport	5,199	4,083	-1,116	-21.5%
North Kingstown	6,848	6,322	-526	-7.7%
North Providence	5,936	5,514	-422	-7.1%
North Smithfield	2,379	2,456	77	3.2%
Pawtucket	18,151	16,575	-1,576	-8.7%
Portsmouth	4,329	3,996	-333	-7.7%
Providence	45,277	41,634	-3,643	-8.0%
Richmond	2,014	1,849	-165	-8.2%
Scituate	2,635	2,272	-363	-13.8%
Smithfield	4,019	3,625	-394	-9.8%
South Kingstown	6,284	5,416	-868	-13.8%
Tiverton	3,367	2,998	-369	-11.0%
Warren	2,454	1,940	-514	-20.9%
Warwick	18,780	15,825	-2,955	-15.7%
West Greenwich	1,444	1,477	33	2.3%
West Warwick	6,632	5,746	-886	-13.4%
Westerly	5,406	4,787	-619	-11.5%
Woonsocket	11,155	9,888	-1,267	-11.4%
Four Core Cities	80,114	73,741	-6,373	-8.0%
Remainder of State	167,708	150,215	-17,493	-10.4%
Rhode Island	247,822	223,956	-23,866	-9.6%

### Source of Data for Table/Methodology

U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 1 and Census 2010, Summary File 1.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

### References

<sup>1,15</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2016. Table S0201.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1. Table DP-1.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012-2016. Table S1101.

<sup>4,9</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012-2016. Table B01001.

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012-2016. Table B09002.

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012-2016. Table B09018.

<sup>7</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012-2016. Table B09001.

<sup>8</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Redistricting Summary File. Table QT-PL.

<sup>10</sup> O'Hare, W. (2011). *The changing child population of the United States: Analysis of data from the 2010 Census*. Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation.

<sup>11</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012-2016. Table B01001I.

<sup>12</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012-2016. Table B05003.

<sup>13</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012-2016. Table B16007.

<sup>14</sup> Rhode Island Department of Health, *2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey*.

<sup>16,17</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012-2016. Table S0901.

# Children in Single-Parent Families

## DEFINITION

*Children in single-parent families* is the percentage of children under age 18 who live in families headed by a person – male or female – without a spouse present in the home. These numbers include “own children,” defined as never-married children under age 18 who are related to the family head by birth, marriage, or adoption.

## SIGNIFICANCE

According to the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey, there were 190,403 children living with one or more parents in Rhode Island between 2012 and 2016. Of these, 36% (67,992) were living with an unmarried parent, up from 33% of children between 2007 and 2011.<sup>1,2</sup>

Children living in single-parent families are more likely to live in poverty than children living in two-parent families. Single-parent families have only one potential wage earner, compared with the two potential wage earners in two-parent families.<sup>3,4</sup>

Between 2012 and 2016, 76% of children living in poverty in Rhode Island were living in single-parent families. Children in single-parent families in Rhode Island were five times more likely to be living in poverty than those in married-couple families. Between 2012 and 2016 in Rhode Island, 38% of children in single-parent

households lived in poverty, compared to 7% of children in married-couple households.<sup>5</sup>

The financial hardship and time constraints experienced by many single parents explain some of the differences in well-being between the children in single-parent households and those in two-parent households.<sup>6,7</sup> Regardless of parents’ race and level of educational attainment, children who reside in single-parent households (whether due to divorce or the parents never having been married) are at an increased risk for low academic achievement and low levels of social and emotional well-being.<sup>8,9</sup> Compared to children in married families, children in single-parent families are more likely to lack health insurance coverage, drop out of school, disconnect from the labor force, and become teen parents.<sup>10,11</sup> Regardless of whether children grow up with one or two parents, parenting quality is an important predictor of children’s well-being.<sup>12</sup>

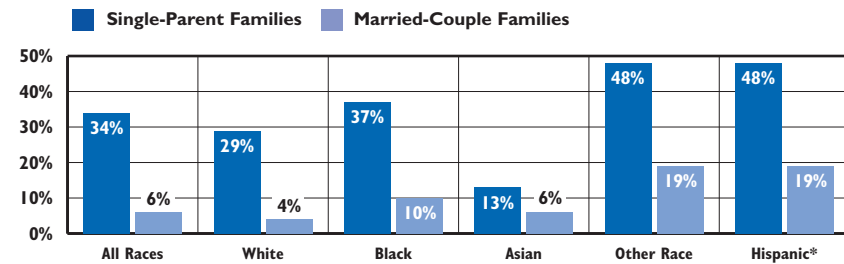
Single-Parent Families		
	2006	2016
<b>RI</b>	35%	38%
<b>US</b>	32%	35%
<b>National Rank*</b>		<b>38th</b>
<b>New England Rank**</b>		<b>6th</b>

\*1st is best; 50th is worst

\*\*1st is best; 6th is worst

The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, datacenter.kidscount.org

## Families With Children Under Age 18 and Income Below the Poverty Threshold by Race & Ethnicity, Rhode Island, 2012-2016



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012-2016. Tables B17010, B17010A, B17010B, B17010D, B17010F, B17010I. \*Hispanics may be in any race category.

◆ **Hispanic single-parent families in Rhode Island are more than one and a half times as likely as White single-parent families to live in poverty. Hispanic, Other Race, and Black married-couple families are more likely than White and Asian married-couple families in Rhode Island to live in poverty.**<sup>13</sup>

## Family Structure and Child Well-Being

◆ **Family structure influences children’s social, emotional, and cognitive development. Children born to and raised in married-parent families have higher rates of economic, social, and psychological stability compared to children in single-parent families. Children living in single-parent households are more likely to face educational challenges and are more likely to live in poverty than children in married-couple families.**<sup>14,15</sup>

◆ **Children in the U.S. live in a variety of family structures. Among those who live with at least one of their biological parents, 59% live in ‘simple families’ with only biological parent(s) and full sibling(s), and 41% live in ‘complex families’ with single parents, stepparents, stepsiblings, and/or half siblings. Family structure varies by education, with one in two children whose parents have a high school diploma or less education and about one in five children with a college-educated parent living in ‘complex’ families.**<sup>16</sup>

◆ **After increasing for several decades, the proportion of births to unmarried families in the U.S. has leveled off at just over 40%.<sup>17</sup> Babies born to cohabiting couples comprise 60% of nonmarital births and 25% of all births in the U.S., and they account for nearly the entire increase in nonmarital births.**<sup>18</sup>

# Children in Single-Parent Families

Table 2.

Children's Living Arrangements, Rhode Island, 2010

CITY/TOWN	CHILDREN LIVING IN HOUSEHOLDS	CHILDREN WHO ARE A HOUSEHOLDER OR SPOUSE		CHILDREN LIVING WITH NON-RELATIVES		CHILDREN LIVING WITH OTHER RELATIVES		CHILDREN LIVING IN MARRIED-COUPLE FAMILIES		CHILDREN LIVING WITH GRANDPARENTS		CHILDREN LIVING IN SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Barrington	4,597	2	<1%	31	1%	15	0%	3,871	84%	85	2%	593	13%
Bristol	3,621	1	<1%	37	1%	51	1%	2,564	71%	225	6%	743	21%
Burrillville	3,548	0	0%	110	3%	26	1%	2,353	66%	232	7%	827	23%
Central Falls	5,634	3	<1%	90	2%	209	4%	2,159	38%	429	8%	2,744	49%
Charlestown	1,506	0	0%	15	1%	20	1%	1,059	70%	106	7%	306	20%
Coventry	7,762	2	<1%	148	2%	72	1%	5,343	69%	549	7%	1,648	21%
Cranston	16,262	5	<1%	226	1%	324	2%	10,462	64%	1,027	6%	4,218	26%
Cumberland	7,535	0	0%	97	1%	53	1%	5,651	75%	334	4%	1,400	19%
East Greenwich	3,436	0	0%	21	1%	13	0%	2,889	84%	71	2%	442	13%
East Providence	9,100	2	<1%	127	1%	154	2%	5,329	59%	675	7%	2,813	31%
Exeter	1,300	0	0%	23	2%	16	1%	996	77%	82	6%	183	14%
Foster	986	0	0%	24	2%	10	1%	741	75%	69	7%	142	14%
Glocester	2,098	0	0%	39	2%	26	1%	1,581	75%	137	7%	315	15%
Hopkinton	1,845	0	0%	46	2%	24	1%	1,327	72%	113	6%	335	18%
Jamestown	1,043	0	0%	3	0%	5	0%	799	77%	49	5%	187	18%
Johnston	5,473	2	<1%	90	2%	114	2%	3,591	66%	380	7%	1,296	24%
Lincoln	4,743	3	<1%	61	1%	52	1%	3,270	69%	211	4%	1,146	24%
Little Compton	654	0	0%	5	1%	1	0%	528	81%	42	6%	78	12%
Middletown	3,634	3	<1%	45	1%	38	1%	2,606	72%	166	5%	776	21%
Narragansett	2,240	2	<1%	35	2%	25	1%	1,533	68%	105	5%	540	24%
New Shoreham	163	0	0%	1	1%	1	1%	111	68%	4	2%	46	28%
Newport	4,060	2	<1%	66	2%	56	1%	2,034	50%	204	5%	1,698	42%
North Kingstown	6,322	1	<1%	57	1%	49	1%	4,639	73%	247	4%	1,329	21%
North Providence	5,481	0	0%	81	1%	131	2%	3,266	60%	378	7%	1,625	30%
North Smithfield	2,456	0	0%	40	2%	13	1%	1,831	75%	96	4%	476	19%
Pawtucket	16,550	17	<1%	239	1%	460	3%	7,488	45%	1,228	7%	7,118	43%
Portsmouth	3,940	2	<1%	47	1%	24	1%	2,977	76%	172	4%	718	18%
Providence	41,497	41	<1%	632	2%	1,663	4%	16,931	41%	3,094	7%	19,136	46%
Richmond	1,836	0	0%	32	2%	16	1%	1,437	78%	104	6%	247	13%
Scituate	2,272	0	0%	24	1%	22	1%	1,731	76%	139	6%	356	16%
Smithfield	3,615	2	<1%	46	1%	29	1%	2,802	78%	164	5%	572	16%
South Kingstown	5,364	0	0%	81	2%	31	1%	3,951	74%	248	5%	1,053	20%
Tiverton	2,998	1	<1%	41	1%	20	1%	2,109	70%	162	5%	665	22%
Warren	1,935	4	<1%	42	2%	19	1%	1,124	58%	136	7%	610	32%
Warwick	15,795	3	<1%	308	2%	223	1%	10,476	66%	1,109	7%	3,676	23%
West Greenwich	1,468	2	<1%	22	1%	13	1%	1,131	77%	79	5%	221	15%
West Warwick	5,746	1	<1%	151	3%	121	2%	3,118	54%	365	6%	1,990	35%
Westerly	4,787	4	<1%	82	2%	83	2%	3,012	63%	269	6%	1,337	28%
Woonsocket	9,842	10	<1%	203	2%	176	2%	4,237	43%	683	7%	4,533	46%
Four Core Cities	73,523	71	<1%	1,164	2%	2,508	3%	30,815	42%	5,434	7%	33,531	46%
Remainder of State	149,621	44	<1%	2,304	2%	1,890	1%	102,242	68%	8,534	6%	34,607	23%
Rhode Island	223,144	115	<1%	3,468	2%	4,398	2%	133,057	60%	13,968	6%	68,138	31%

## Source of Data for Table/Methodology

U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010.

The denominator is the number of children under age 18 living in family households according to Census 2010. A family household is defined by the U.S. Census Bureau as consisting of a householder and one or more people living together in the same household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage or adoption – it may include others not related to the householder.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

## References

- <sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012-2016. Table B09002.
- <sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007-2011. Table B09002.
- <sup>3,6,12</sup> Waldfogel, J., Craigie, T., & Brooks-Gunn, J. (2010). Fragile families and child wellbeing. *The Future of Children*, 20(2), 87-112.
- <sup>4,7</sup> *Family structure*. (2015) Washington, DC.: Child Trends
- <sup>5</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012-2016. Table B17006.
- <sup>8,10</sup> Blackwell, D. L. (2010). Family structure and children's health in the United States: Findings from the National Health Interview Survey, 2001-2007. *Vital and Health Statistics*, 10(246). Hyattsville, MD: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- <sup>9</sup> Barajas, M. S. (2011). Academic achievement of children in single parent homes: A critical review. *The Hilltop Review*, 5(1), 13-21.
- <sup>11</sup> Mather, M. (2010). *U.S. children in single-mother families*. Washington, DC: Population Reference Bureau.
- <sup>13</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012-2016. Tables B17010, B17010A, B17010B, B17010D, B17010F, B17010I.
- <sup>14</sup> The National Conference on State Legislators. (2012). *Child poverty rates and family structure*. Retrieved December 16, 2016, from www.ncsl.org

(continued on page 174)

# Grandparents Caring for Grandchildren

## DEFINITION

*Grandparents caring for grandchildren* is the percentage of family households in which a grandparent is financially responsible for food, shelter, clothing, child care, etc. for any or all grandchildren under age 18 living in the household.

## SIGNIFICANCE

One in ten children in the United States lives with a grandparent. The number of children living with grandparents rose sharply at the start of the recession and has been stable since 2009. Black children are more likely to be cared for primarily by a grandparent than White, Hispanic, or Asian children.<sup>1</sup>

Grandparents can provide continuity and family support for children in vulnerable families. Children may be in grandparent care because of parental divorce or economic challenges or they have a parent who is unemployed, incarcerated, ill, struggling with substance abuse, or coping with other problems.<sup>2</sup>

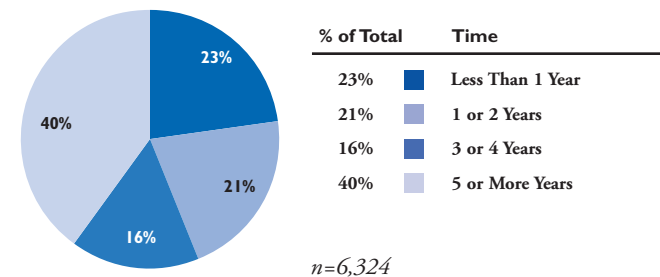
Grandparents who are financially responsible for their grandchildren have higher rates of poverty compared to other adults. Twenty-two percent of grandparent caregivers live below the poverty line, compared to 10% of the population age 50 and over.<sup>3,4</sup>

Many grandparents have informal custody arrangements and are not involved with child welfare agencies, often receiving fewer services than traditional foster parents.<sup>5</sup> Compared to the general population, children in informal kinship care are less likely to be covered by health insurance and are more likely to have physical and mental disabilities.<sup>6</sup>

Grandparents and other relative caregivers can lack information about the support services (such as training, respite, and peer support), resources, programs, and policies available to them.<sup>7</sup> Nearly all children in kinship care are eligible for cash assistance through Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) regardless of their household's income level, yet children in informal custody arrangements are much less likely to receive these payments.<sup>8</sup>

Grandparent caregivers are at risk for poor physical and mental health. They may have difficulty enrolling children in school and/or seeking health insurance or medical care for the children. Many caregivers do not pursue the required legal process required for permanent status in order to avoid strain on family relationships and due to cost.<sup>9,10,11</sup> Grandparents make up the largest percentage of relative caregivers, but aunts, uncles, cousins, siblings and other relative caregivers may face similar obstacles.<sup>12</sup>

**Rhode Island Grandparents Financially Responsible for Their Grandchildren, by Length of Time Responsible, 2012-2016**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012-2016. Table B10050.

◆ Between 2012 and 2016, there were a total of 13,966 children in Rhode Island living in households headed by grandparents.<sup>13</sup> During this time period, there were 6,324 grandparents who were financially responsible for their grandchildren, 56% of whom had been financially responsible for three or more years.<sup>14</sup>

◆ In 2010, 6% (13,968) of all children in Rhode Island lived with a grandparent caregiver and 2% (4,398) lived with other relatives.<sup>15</sup>

◆ Children in the child welfare system have more adverse childhood experiences which contribute to negative health outcomes in adulthood. Children in foster care with relatives have better health outcomes, more stability, and are more likely to have a permanent home.<sup>16</sup> Rhode Island regulations state that the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) must give priority to relatives when placing a child in out-of-home care.<sup>17</sup> On December 31, 2017, there were 888 children under age 19 in DCYF care who were in out-of-home placements with a grandparent or other relative. These children made up 42% of all children in out-of-home placements in Rhode Island.<sup>18</sup>

◆ The federal *Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act* helps children and youth in foster care live in permanent families by subsidizing guardianship and adoption by family members.<sup>19</sup> Rhode Island is one of 33 states with a *Guardianship Assistance Program* that provides financial assistance payments to grandparents and other relative caregivers who assume legal guardianship.<sup>20</sup>

# Grandparents Caring for Grandchildren

Table 3.

## Children's Living Arrangements, Rhode Island, 2010

CITY/TOWN	CHILDREN LIVING IN HOUSEHOLDS	CHILDREN WHO ARE A HOUSEHOLDER OR SPOUSE		CHILDREN LIVING WITH NON-RELATIVES		CHILDREN LIVING WITH OTHER RELATIVES		CHILDREN LIVING IN MARRIED IN COUPLE FAMILIES		CHILDREN LIVING IN SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES		CHILDREN LIVING WITH GRANDPARENTS	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Barrington	4,597	2	<1%	31	1%	15	0%	3,871	84%	593	13%	85	2%
Bristol	3,621	1	<1%	37	1%	51	1%	2,564	71%	743	21%	225	6%
Burrillville	3,548	0	0%	110	3%	26	1%	2,353	66%	827	23%	232	7%
Central Falls	5,634	3	<1%	90	2%	209	4%	2,159	38%	2,744	49%	429	8%
Charlestown	1,506	0	0%	15	1%	20	1%	1,059	70%	306	20%	106	7%
Coventry	7,762	2	<1%	148	2%	72	1%	5,343	69%	1,648	21%	549	7%
Cranston	16,262	5	<1%	226	1%	324	2%	10,462	64%	4,218	26%	1,027	6%
Cumberland	7,535	0	0%	97	1%	53	1%	5,651	75%	1,400	19%	334	4%
East Greenwich	3,436	0	0%	21	1%	13	0%	2,889	84%	442	13%	71	2%
East Providence	9,100	2	<1%	127	1%	154	2%	5,329	59%	2,813	31%	675	7%
Exeter	1,300	0	0%	23	2%	16	1%	996	77%	183	14%	82	6%
Foster	986	0	0%	24	2%	10	1%	741	75%	142	14%	69	7%
Glocester	2,098	0	0%	39	2%	26	1%	1,581	75%	315	15%	137	7%
Hopkinton	1,845	0	0%	46	2%	24	1%	1,327	72%	335	18%	113	6%
Jamestown	1,043	0	0%	3	0%	5	0%	799	77%	187	18%	49	5%
Johnston	5,473	2	<1%	90	2%	114	2%	3,591	66%	1,296	24%	380	7%
Lincoln	4,743	3	<1%	61	1%	52	1%	3,270	69%	1,146	24%	211	4%
Little Compton	654	0	0%	5	1%	1	0%	528	81%	78	12%	42	6%
Middletown	3,634	3	<1%	45	1%	38	1%	2,606	72%	776	21%	166	5%
Narragansett	2,240	2	<1%	35	2%	25	1%	1,533	68%	540	24%	105	5%
New Shoreham	163	0	0%	1	1%	1	1%	111	68%	46	28%	4	2%
Newport	4,060	2	<1%	66	2%	56	1%	2,034	50%	1,698	42%	204	5%
North Kingstown	6,322	1	<1%	57	1%	49	1%	4,639	73%	1,329	21%	247	4%
North Providence	5,481	0	0%	81	1%	131	2%	3,266	60%	1,625	30%	378	7%
North Smithfield	2,456	0	0%	40	2%	13	1%	1,831	75%	476	19%	96	4%
Pawtucket	16,550	17	<1%	239	1%	460	3%	7,488	45%	7,118	43%	1,228	7%
Portsmouth	3,940	2	<1%	47	1%	24	1%	2,977	76%	718	18%	172	4%
Providence	41,497	41	<1%	632	2%	1,663	4%	16,931	41%	19,136	46%	3,094	7%
Richmond	1,836	0	0%	32	2%	16	1%	1,437	78%	247	13%	104	6%
Scituate	2,272	0	0%	24	1%	22	1%	1,731	76%	356	16%	139	6%
Smithfield	3,615	2	<1%	46	1%	29	1%	2,802	78%	572	16%	164	5%
South Kingstown	5,364	0	0%	81	2%	31	1%	3,951	74%	1,053	20%	248	5%
Tiverton	2,998	1	<1%	41	1%	20	1%	2,109	70%	665	22%	162	5%
Warren	1,935	4	<1%	42	2%	19	1%	1,124	58%	610	32%	136	7%
Warwick	15,795	3	<1%	308	2%	223	1%	10,476	66%	3,676	23%	1,109	7%
West Greenwich	1,468	2	<1%	22	1%	13	1%	1,131	77%	221	15%	79	5%
West Warwick	5,746	1	<1%	151	3%	121	2%	3,118	54%	1,990	35%	365	6%
Westerly	4,787	4	<1%	82	2%	83	2%	3,012	63%	1,337	28%	269	6%
Woonsocket	9,842	10	<1%	203	2%	176	2%	4,237	43%	4,533	46%	683	7%
Four Core Cities	73,523	71	<1%	1,164	2%	2,508	3%	30,815	42%	33,531	46%	5,434	7%
Remainder of State	149,621	44	<1%	2,304	2%	1,890	1%	102,242	68%	34,607	23%	8,534	6%
Rhode Island	223,144	115	<1%	3,468	2%	4,398	2%	133,057	60%	68,138	31%	13,968	6%

### Source of Data for Table/Methodology

U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010.

The denominator is the number of children under age 18 living in family households according to Census 2010. A family household is defined by the U.S. Census Bureau as consisting of a householder and one or more people living together in the same household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage or adoption – it may include others not related to the householder.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

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- <sup>5,10,16</sup> Generations United. (2017). *In loving arms: The protective role of grandparents and other relatives in raising children exposed to trauma*. Washington, DC
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(continued on page 174)

# Mother's Education Level

## DEFINITION

*Mother's education level* is the percentage of total births to women with less than a high school diploma. Data are self-reported at the time of the infant's birth. Although a father's education level has an impact on his child's development, this indicator uses maternal education level because a significant number of birth records lack information on paternal education level.

## SIGNIFICANCE

Parental educational attainment can have an impact on many aspects of child well-being, including children's health and health-related behaviors, children's access to sufficient educational resources, and the level of education they will ultimately achieve. Children of less educated parents are less likely to succeed in school, more likely to be persistently poor, and more likely to be in poor health.<sup>1,2</sup>

Infant mortality rates increase as mother's education levels decrease.<sup>3,4</sup> For example, between 2012 and 2016, Rhode Island mothers with a high school degree or less had a higher infant mortality rate (5.7 per 1,000) than mothers with more advanced education (4.1 per 1,000 births).<sup>5</sup>

Children of more highly educated parents participate in early learning programs and home literacy activities more frequently, enter school with higher levels of academic skills, and, on average,

earn higher reading and math test scores. Increasing maternal education can improve children's school readiness, language and academic skills, health, employment opportunities, and earnings.<sup>6,7,8</sup> Higher levels of parental education decrease the likelihood that a child will live in poverty.<sup>9</sup> Women with bachelor's degrees in Rhode Island earn more than twice as much as those with less than a high school diploma.<sup>10</sup>

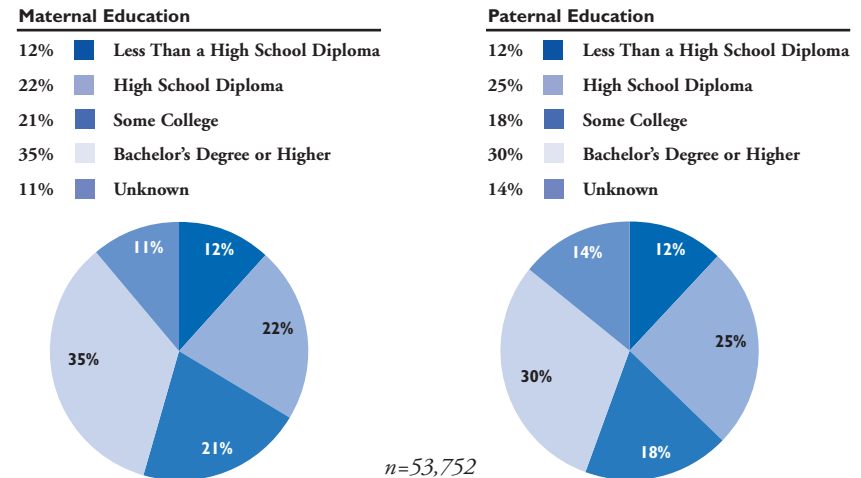
Between 2012 and 2016, 12% of Rhode Island births were to mothers with less than a high school diploma and 35% were to mothers with a bachelor's degree or higher.<sup>11</sup> Nationally in 2013, 12% of births were to mothers with less than a high school diploma, and 63% of births were to mothers with at least some college education.<sup>12</sup>

## Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma, Rhode Island, 2012-2016

CITY/TOWN	% OF BIRTHS
Central Falls	35%
Pawtucket	16%
Providence	21%
Woonsocket	18%
Four Core Cities	21%
Remainder of State	6%
Rhode Island	12%

Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, Maternal Child Health Database, 2012-2016.

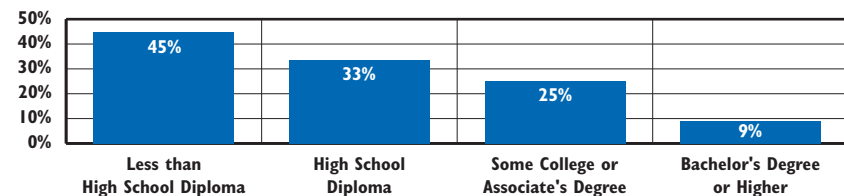
## Births by Parental Education Levels, Rhode Island, 2012-2016



Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, Maternal Child Health Database, 2012-2016. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

◆ In Rhode Island between 2012 and 2016, 34% of all infants were born to mothers with a high school diploma or less, and 37% were born to fathers with a high school diploma or less (compared with 35% for mothers and 38% for fathers from 2011 to 2015).<sup>13</sup>

## Poverty Rates for Families Headed by Single Females by Educational Attainment, Rhode Island, 2012-2016



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012-2016. Table S1702.

◆ In Rhode Island between 2012 and 2016, 45% of families headed by single females with less than a high school diploma were poor, compared with 9% of those with a bachelor's degree or higher.<sup>14</sup>



Table 4.

**Births by Education Level of Mother, Rhode Island, 2012-2016**

CITY/TOWN	TOTAL # OF BIRTHS	BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR ABOVE		SOME COLLEGE		HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA		LESS THAN A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Barrington	537	402	75%	48	9%	29	5%	10	*
Bristol	719	344	48%	168	23%	137	19%	29	4%
Burrillville	645	215	33%	178	28%	153	24%	37	6%
Central Falls	1,613	108	7%	244	15%	493	31%	558	35%
Charlestown	238	93	39%	59	25%	47	20%	15	6% <sup>^</sup>
Coventry	1,480	619	42%	393	27%	287	19%	79	5%
Cranston	3,927	1,665	42%	886	23%	763	19%	258	7%
Cumberland	1,661	899	54%	357	21%	198	12%	58	3%
East Greenwich	576	397	69%	75	13%	45	8%	12	2% <sup>^</sup>
East Providence	2,347	955	41%	495	21%	504	21%	178	8%
Exeter	246	125	51%	45	18%	39	16%	20	8% <sup>^</sup>
Foster	166	62	37%	48	29%	30	18%	7	*
Glocester	337	145	43%	94	28%	56	17%	12	4% <sup>^</sup>
Hopkinton	288	120	42%	70	24%	58	20%	17	6% <sup>^</sup>
Jamestown	115	77	67%	13	11% <sup>^</sup>	8	*	0	0%
Johnston	1,330	519	39%	343	26%	267	20%	80	6%
Lincoln	977	461	47%	233	24%	148	15%	46	5%
Little Compton	78	37	47%	24	31%	5	*	2	*
Middletown	804	413	51%	153	19%	135	17%	29	4%
Narragansett	330	188	57%	62	19%	37	11%	10	*
New Shoreham	58	26	45%	18	31%	6	*	2	*
Newport	1,305	600	46%	165	13%	232	18%	145	11%
North Kingstown	1,081	590	55%	176	16%	170	16%	50	5%
North Providence	1,625	638	39%	412	25%	336	21%	92	6%
North Smithfield	415	202	49%	99	24%	61	15%	16	4% <sup>^</sup>
Pawtucket	4,885	1,044	21%	1,084	22%	1,292	26%	792	16%
Portsmouth	583	318	55%	118	20%	72	12%	11	2% <sup>^</sup>
Providence	12,511	2,587	21%	2,278	18%	3,168	25%	2,667	21%
Richmond	307	159	52%	55	18%	52	17%	13	4% <sup>^</sup>
Scituate	385	196	51%	90	23%	59	15%	7	*
Smithfield	641	359	56%	134	21%	92	14%	12	2% <sup>^</sup>
South Kingstown	854	473	55%	130	15%	131	15%	33	4%
Tiverton	530	232	44%	119	22%	93	18%	20	4% <sup>^</sup>
Warren	434	169	39%	107	25%	88	20%	31	7%
Warwick	3,831	1,735	45%	904	24%	714	19%	184	5%
West Greenwich	223	104	47%	50	22%	40	18%	8	*
West Warwick	1,741	471	27%	459	26%	488	28%	201	12%
Westerly	873	327	37%	201	23%	211	24%	53	6%
Woonsocket	2,890	433	15%	575	20%	969	34%	530	18%
Unknown	166	82	49%	32	19%	25	15%	5	*
Four Core Cities	21,899	4,172	19%	4,181	19%	5,922	27%	4,547	21%
Remainder of State	31,687	14,335	45%	6,981	22%	5,791	18%	1,777	6%
Rhode Island	53,752	18,589	35%	11,194	21%	11,738	22%	6,329	12%

### Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, Maternal Child Health Database, 2012-2016. Data are self-reported and reported by the mother's place of residence, not the place of the infant's birth.

Percentages may not sum to 100% for all communities and the state because the number and percentage of births with unknown parental education levels are not included in this table. Between 2012 and 2016, maternal education levels were unknown for 5,902 births (11%).

Data for 2014 do not include out of state births to Rhode Island residents. Data for 2015 are missing four births.

\* The data are statistically unreliable and rates are not reported and should not be calculated.

<sup>^</sup> The data are statistically unstable and rates or percentages should be interpreted with caution.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

### References

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- <sup>3,12</sup> Hernandez, D. J. & Napierala, J. S. (2014). *Mother's education and children's outcomes: How dual-generation programs offer increased opportunities for America's families*. New York, NY: Foundation for Child Development.
- <sup>4</sup> Gakidou, E., Cowling, K., Lozano, R., & Murray, C. J. L. (2010). Increased educational attainment and its effect on child mortality in 175 countries between 1970 and 2009: A systemic analysis [Abstract]. *The Lancet*, 376(9745), p. 959-974.
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(continued on page 174)

# Racial and Ethnic Diversity

## DEFINITION

*Racial and ethnic diversity* is the percentage of children under age 18 by racial and ethnic categories as defined by the U.S. Census. Racial and ethnic categories are chosen by the head of household or person completing the Census form.

## SIGNIFICANCE

Racial and ethnic diversity has increased in the United States over the last several decades and is projected to rise in the future.<sup>1</sup> Since 2000, all of the growth in the child population in the U.S. has been among groups other than non-Hispanic Whites.<sup>2</sup> In Rhode Island, the Hispanic child population grew by 31% between 2000 and 2010, while the non-Hispanic White child population declined by 21%.<sup>3</sup> In 2016, 51% of all U.S. children were non-Hispanic White.<sup>4</sup> By 2023, more than half of all children in the U.S. will be children of color.<sup>5</sup>

In 2010, 64% of children in Rhode Island were non-Hispanic White, down from 73% in 2000. The number of children of color grew by about 13,000 between 2000 and 2010. The number of non-Hispanic White children dropped by over 37,000 during the same period.<sup>6</sup>

Including Hispanics in each race category, in 2010 in Rhode Island, 72% of children under age 18 were White, 8% were Black or African American,

3% were Asian, less than 1% were American Indian or Alaska Native, 9% identified as Some other race, and 7% identified as Two or more races. In 2010, 21% of children living in Rhode Island were Hispanic.<sup>7</sup>

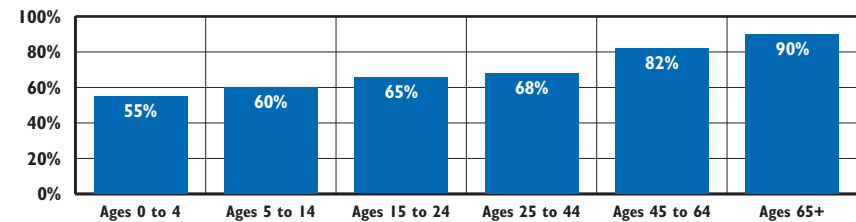
More than two-thirds (67%) of all children of color live in Rhode Island's four core cities of Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket. Almost three-quarters (74%) of children living in the four core cities are children of color.<sup>8</sup>

Between 2012 and 2016, there were 9,142 foreign-born children living in Rhode Island, 33% of whom were naturalized U.S. citizens.<sup>9</sup> Of Rhode Island's immigrant children, 29% were born in Asia, 25% were born in the Caribbean, 18% were born in Central or South America, 15% were born in Africa, 11% were born in Europe, and 3% were born in North America (Canada, Bermuda, or Mexico).<sup>10</sup>

Between 2012 and 2016, 23% of children between the ages of five and 17 living in Rhode Island spoke a language other than English at home, 96% of whom spoke English well or very well.<sup>11</sup>

Diversity presents both opportunities and challenges to schools, child care providers, health care providers, social service agencies, and other community organizations, in terms of adapting current practices to meet the needs of a changing population.<sup>12</sup>

**Percent of Population Identified as Non-Hispanic White by Age, Rhode Island, 2016**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates, 2016.

- ◆ **Young children in Rhode Island are less likely to be identified as non-Hispanic White than any other age group.** Fifty-five percent of Rhode Island children under age five were non-Hispanic White, compared with 68% of adults ages 25 to 44 and 90% of people age 65 or over.<sup>13</sup>
- ◆ **The median age of Hispanic Rhode Islanders in 2016 was 27 years, compared with 46 years for White Rhode Islanders, 34 years for Native American Rhode Islanders, 32 years for Black Rhode Islanders, 31 years for Asian Rhode Islanders, and 20 years for Rhode Islanders who identify as Two or more races.**<sup>14</sup>
- ◆ **Ninety-five percent of children in Rhode Island were born in the U.S.**<sup>15</sup> Twenty-six percent of children in Rhode Island live in immigrant families (either they are foreign-born, or they have at least one parent who is foreign-born), slightly above the U.S. rate of 25%.<sup>16</sup> Nearly all (97%) children in Rhode Island immigrant families have parents who arrived in this country more than five years ago.<sup>17</sup>
- ◆ **Sixteen percent of Rhode Island children in non-immigrant families are poor, compared with 20% of children in immigrant families.**<sup>18</sup> Sixty-nine percent of Rhode Island's poor children live in families with U.S.-born parents.<sup>19</sup>
- ◆ **Limited English proficiency can be a barrier to employment opportunities, higher earnings, access to health care, and parental engagement with education.**<sup>20</sup> Sixteen percent of Rhode Island children in immigrant families live in linguistically-isolated households, meaning no one 14 years or older speaks only English and no one over 14 speaks English "very well."<sup>21</sup>

Table 5.

Child Population, by Race and Ethnicity, Rhode Island, 2010

CITY/TOWN	UNDER AGE 18 BY RACE AND ETHNICITY								2010 POPULATION UNDER AGE 18
	HISPANIC OR LATINO	WHITE	BLACK	AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE	ASIAN	NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER	SOME OTHER RACE	TWO OR MORE RACES	
Barrington	154	4,096	22	8	163	0	13	141	4,597
Bristol	130	3,298	43	4	40	0	3	105	3,623
Burrillville	115	3,310	32	2	12	0	4	101	3,576
Central Falls	3,950	747	492	17	20	2	179	237	5,644
Charlestown	46	1,331	8	50	16	0	1	54	1,506
Coventry	312	7,065	64	19	77	0	14	219	7,770
Cranston	2,966	10,819	693	48	1,075	15	73	725	16,414
Cumberland	542	6,348	154	7	204	3	31	246	7,535
East Greenwich	106	3,014	26	5	174	0	6	105	3,436
East Providence	799	6,619	619	42	142	1	281	674	9,177
Exeter	66	1,216	7	7	10	0	3	25	1,334
Foster	24	913	14	1	16	0	0	18	986
Glocester	63	1,942	13	2	24	0	7	47	2,098
Hopkinton	48	1,690	7	15	16	0	3	66	1,845
Jamestown	36	947	4	1	8	0	2	45	1,043
Johnston	640	4,364	148	1	135	0	22	170	5,480
Lincoln	353	3,885	114	7	164	0	25	203	4,751
Little Compton	18	606	8	1	6	3	2	10	654
Middletown	295	2,779	159	10	124	3	20	262	3,652
Narragansett	91	1,998	30	32	16	0	9	93	2,269
New Shoreham	10	149	1	0	0	0	0	3	163
Newport	703	2,405	337	37	39	1	33	528	4,083
North Kingstown	289	5,598	75	31	85	2	6	236	6,322
North Providence	796	3,833	397	15	158	0	74	241	5,514
North Smithfield	114	2,241	15	2	33	0	4	47	2,456
Pawtucket	4,785	6,513	2,727	83	256	7	1,004	1,200	16,575
Portsmouth	157	3,537	53	11	58	1	13	166	3,996
Providence	23,166	6,737	6,682	375	2,095	15	494	2,070	41,634
Richmond	44	1,729	12	7	15	0	0	42	1,849
Scituate	54	2,145	8	4	29	0	3	29	2,272
Smithfield	117	3,337	46	6	41	0	9	69	3,625
South Kingstown	192	4,687	80	81	115	1	18	242	5,416
Tiverton	84	2,741	31	3	34	2	9	94	2,998
Warren	75	1,736	38	10	11	0	4	66	1,940
Warwick	1,048	13,365	275	38	457	2	39	601	15,825
West Greenwich	60	1,353	15	5	16	0	1	27	1,477
West Warwick	590	4,554	142	11	128	3	20	298	5,746
Westerly	252	4,068	68	52	127	2	10	208	4,787
Woonsocket	2,650	5,147	676	37	592	2	35	749	9,888
Four Core Cities	34,551	19,144	10,577	512	2,963	26	1,712	4,256	73,741
Remainder of State	11,389	123,718	3,758	575	3,768	39	762	6,206	150,215
Rhode Island	45,940	142,862	14,335	1,087	6,731	65	2,474	10,462	223,956

### Source of Data for Table/Methodology

U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010 Redistricting File. All categories are mutually exclusive. If Hispanic was selected as ethnicity, individuals are not included in other racial categories. Likewise, if more than one race was selected, individuals are included in Two or more races and not in their individual race categories.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

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(continued on page 174)

# Racial and Ethnic Disparities

## DEFINITION

*Racial and ethnic disparities* is the gap that exists in outcomes for children of different racial and ethnic groups in Rhode Island. Child well-being outcome areas include economic well-being, health, safety, and education.

## SIGNIFICANCE

Rhode Island's children are diverse in racial and ethnic background. In 2010 in Rhode Island, 72% of children under age 18 were White, 8% were Black or African American, 3% were Asian, 1% were Native American, 9% of children were identified as "Some other race," and 7% as "Two or more races." In 2010, 21% of children living in Rhode Island were Hispanic.<sup>1</sup>

Children who live in poverty, especially those who experience deep poverty in early childhood, are more likely to have health, behavioral, educational and social problems.<sup>2,3</sup> Between 2012 and 2016, 19% of all Rhode Island children lived in poverty, 68% of whom were children of color.<sup>4</sup>

Black, Hispanic, and Native American children are more likely than White and Asian children to live in neighborhoods that lack the resources needed for them to grow up healthy and successful.<sup>5</sup> In 2010, two-thirds (67%) of Rhode Island's children of color lived in one of the four core cities (those cities with the highest percentage of children living in

poverty). In 2010, more than three quarters of the children in Providence (84%) and Central Falls (87%) were children of color.<sup>6</sup>

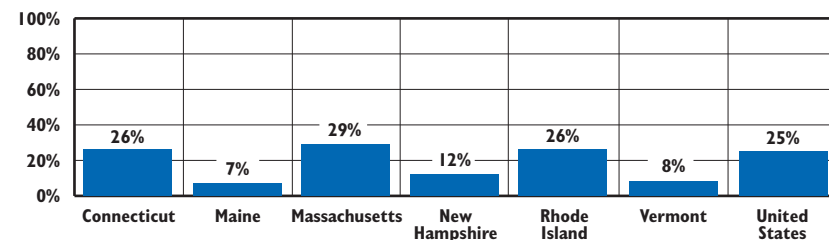
Children living in areas of concentrated poverty, who are more likely to be Black or Hispanic, face challenges above and beyond the burdens of individual poverty. The Providence metropolitan area has the 56th highest rate of concentrated poverty in the U.S.<sup>7</sup> Residential segregation between Whites and Blacks has decreased in the U.S. since the 1970s, but high levels of residential segregation still exist. Hispanics and Asians experience less segregation than Blacks, but the rate of segregation for these groups has been increasing in recent years.<sup>8</sup> The Providence-New Bedford-Fall River metropolitan area was the ninth most segregated metropolitan area in the nation for Hispanics in 2010.<sup>9</sup>

Black and Hispanic families were disproportionately impacted by the economic recession. In the U.S. between 2010 and 2013, White families' net worth rose by 2% while the net worth of Black and Hispanic families fell by 15% and 34% respectively. The median net worth of White households is more than 10 times greater than the median net worth of Black or Hispanic families.<sup>10</sup> In Rhode Island, Black and Hispanic families have higher rates of unemployment and earn lower wages than White families.<sup>11</sup>

## Residential Segregation and Its Impact on Education

- ◆ In the U.S., Black and Hispanic students are now more segregated from White students than forty years ago.<sup>12</sup> White students generally attend schools that are disproportionately White and low-poverty, while Black and Hispanic students attend schools that are disproportionately students of color and high-poverty.<sup>13</sup>
- ◆ Students in schools with high concentrations of low-income students and students of color have unequal educational opportunities, with classmates who generally have more absences and lower graduation rates and teachers who have less teaching experience and are more likely to teach outside their subject area of expertise. Students living in poverty often face a host of challenges outside the classroom that can negatively impact academic performance, including inadequate housing, lower parental educational levels, and fewer opportunities for enriching after-school and summer activities.<sup>14,15</sup>

## Percentage of Children Living in Immigrant Families, New England and United States, 2016



Source: The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, [datacenter.kidscount.org](http://datacenter.kidscount.org)

- ◆ Children in immigrant families are defined as children under age 18 who are foreign-born or who have at least one foreign-born parent, regardless of citizenship status or year of arrival in the United States. In 2016, 26% (55,000) of Rhode Island children were living in immigrant families.<sup>16</sup>
- ◆ More than half (55%) of Rhode Island's Latino children live in immigrant families.<sup>17</sup>

## Economic Well-Being Outcomes, by Race and Ethnicity, Rhode Island

	WHITE	HISPANIC	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	ALL RACES
Children in Poverty	15%	40%	31%	8%	59%	19%
Births to Mothers with <12 Years Education	7%	25%	15%	12%	23%	12%
Unemployment Rate	4%	7%	7%	NA	NA	4%
Median Family Income	\$81,671	\$34,953	\$44,739	\$80,213	\$27,679	\$75,655
Homeownership	64%	26%	31%	49%	22%	60%

Sources: *Children in Poverty* data are from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012-2016. Tables B17001, B17020A, B17020B, B17020C, B17020D, B17020H, and B17020I. *Maternal Education* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, Maternal and Child Health Database, 2012-2016. *Unemployment Rate* data are from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2017. *Median Family Income* data are from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012-2016, Tables B19113, B19113A, B19113B, B19113C, B19113D & B19113I. *Homeownership* data are from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012-2016, Tables B25003, B25003A, B25003B, B25003C, B25003D & B25003I. Hispanics also may be included in any of the race categories. All Census data refer only to those individuals who selected one race. NA indicates that the rate was not calculated because the number was too small to calculate a reliable rate.

- ◆ Between 2012 and 2016 in Rhode Island, 19% of all children, 59% of Native American children, 40% of Hispanic children, 31% of Black children, 15% of White children, and children, 8% of Asian children in Rhode Island lived in families with incomes below the federal poverty threshold.<sup>18</sup>
- ◆ Between 2012 and 2016 in Rhode Island, White households were the most likely to own their homes while Native American, Hispanic, and Black households were the most likely to live in rental units.<sup>19</sup>
- ◆ In 2017 in Rhode Island, the unemployment rate among White workers was 4.1%, compared to 7.0% for Black workers and 7.1% for Hispanic workers. Nationally, the unemployment rate for White workers in 2017 was 3.8%, compared to 7.5% for Black workers and 5.1% for Hispanic workers.<sup>20</sup>
- ◆ Education is essential for economic success. Adults with less than a high school diploma are at particular risk of living in poverty and other negative outcomes.<sup>21</sup> Hispanic, Native American, Black, and Asian children in Rhode Island are all more likely than White children to be born to mothers with less than a high school diploma.<sup>22</sup>

## Health Outcomes, by Race and Ethnicity, Rhode Island

	WHITE	HISPANIC	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	ALL RACES
Children Without Health Insurance	1.7%	2.3%	3.2%	0%	NA	1.9%
Women With Delayed or No Prenatal Care	12.4%	17.4%	21.9%	26.5%	15.6%	14.5%
Preterm Births	6.4%	8.1%	9.2%	7.2%	8.9%	7.1%
Low Birthweight Infants	6.7%	8.2%	11.3%	13.1%	10.3	7.7%
Infant Mortality (per 1,000 live births)	4.3	5.7	9.9	9.3	*	5.7
Births to Teens Ages 15-19 (per 1,000 teens)	9.4	37.9	24.9	8.3	40.4	15.0

Sources: All data are from the Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, Maternal and Child Health Database, 2012-2016 unless otherwise specified. Information is based on self-reported race and ethnicity. *Children without Health Insurance* data are from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2016, Tables B27001, B27001A, B27001B, B27001D & B27001I. For *Births to Teens* the denominators are the female populations ages 15-19 by race from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010, P12, P14. Hispanic also may be included in any of the race categories.

\*The data are statistically unreliable and rates are not reported and should not be calculated.

^The data are statistically unstable and rates or percentages should be interpreted with caution.

- ◆ Although progress has been made on many health indicators across racial and ethnic populations, disparities still exist for a number of maternal and infant health outcomes in Rhode Island. Women of color are more likely than White women to receive delayed or no prenatal care, to have preterm births, and infants with low birth weight. Black children are more likely to die in infancy than White or Hispanic children. Hispanic and Black youth are more likely than White and Asian youth to give birth as teenagers.<sup>23</sup>
- ◆ Black and Hispanic children in Rhode Island are more likely to go to the Emergency Department as a result of asthma than White children.<sup>24</sup> Nationally, Blacks and Native Americans are the most likely of all racial and ethnic groups to have asthma.<sup>25</sup>
- ◆ In 2015, 95% of U.S. children had health insurance coverage, an historic high. Hispanic (93%) and Native American (87%) children had the lowest rates of coverage.<sup>26</sup>

# Racial and Ethnic Disparities

**Safety Outcomes, by Race and Ethnicity, Rhode Island**

	WHITE	HISPANIC	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	ALL RACES
Youth at the Training School (per 1,000 youth ages 13-18)	3.7	9.1	21.0	0.8	12.4	4.5
Children of Incarcerated Parents (per 1,000 children)	6.4	17.0	74.0	5.7	29.4	14.6
Children in Out-of-Home Placement (per 1,000 children)	6.1	13.5	14.4	1.3	12.9	9.6

Sources: *Youth at the Training School* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, Rhode Island Training School, Calendar Year 2017. *Children of Incarcerated Parents* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Corrections, September 30, 2017 and reflect the race of the incarcerated parent (includes only the sentenced population). *Children in Out-of-Home Placement* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, RICHIST Database, December 31, 2017. Population denominators used for *Youth at the Training School* are youth ages 13-18 by race from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010, SF1. Population denominators used for *Children of Incarcerated Parents* and *Children in Out-of-Home Placement* are the populations under age 18 by race from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010, SF1, and PCT12K.

◆ Youth of color continue to be disproportionately represented in the U.S. juvenile justice system. Youth of color (especially Latino and Black youth) are treated more harshly than White youth for the same type and severity of offenses, including processing, detention of juveniles, and incarceration of adults in correctional facilities.<sup>27</sup> Rhode Island's juvenile justice system continues to have a higher rate of disparity between White youth and youth of color than the national average.<sup>28</sup>

◆ Black, Native American, and Hispanic children in Rhode Island are more likely than their White, and Asian peers to be in out-of-home placements through the child welfare system.<sup>29</sup> Nationally, children of color experience disparate treatment as they enter the foster care system and while they are in the system. They are more likely than White children under similar circumstances to be placed in foster care, remain in the child welfare system longer, have less contact with child welfare staff, and to have lower reunification rates.<sup>30</sup>

◆ Racial and ethnic disproportionality in child welfare and juvenile justice systems is in part a reflection of differential poverty rates between communities of color and white communities. However, while addressing poverty through policies would reduce out-of-home placement rates and juvenile incarceration rates, policies that work directly to reduce racial and ethnic disparities are necessary as well.<sup>31</sup>

**Education Outcomes, by Race and Ethnicity, Rhode Island**

	WHITE	HISPANIC	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	ALL RACES
Third Grade Students Meeting Expectations in Reading	50%	24%	27%	54%	16%	40%
Third Grade Students Meeting Expectations in Math	53%	30%	31%	61%	25%	44%
Four-Year High School Graduation Rates	88%	76%	81%	89%	73%	84%
Immediate College Enrollment Rates	65%	46%	46%	64%	41%	59%
% of Adults Over Age 25 With a Bachelor's Degree or Higher	34%	13%	20%	47%	14%	32%

Sources: *Third Grade Students Meeting Expectations in Reading and Math* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Education, *Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)*, 2017. *Four Year High School Graduation Rates* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Education, Class of 2017. *Immediate College Enrollment Rates* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Education, Class of 2016. *Adult Educational Attainment* data are from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2012-2016, Tables B15003, C15002A, C15002B, C15002C, C15002D & C15002I. All Census data refer only to those individuals who selected one race and Hispanics also may be included in any of the race categories.

◆ In Rhode Island, Native American, Hispanic, and Black children are less likely to meet expectations in reading and mathematics in third grade than White or Asian children.<sup>32</sup>

◆ Nationally and in Rhode Island, Native American, Hispanic, and Black students are less likely to graduate from high school within four years and are less likely to immediately enroll in college than White or Asian students. Gaps in college enrollment are particularly large for four-year college enrollment.<sup>33,34</sup>

◆ Nationally, Black, Hispanic, and Native American students are more likely than White and Asian students to be disciplined in school. Schools' disproportionate use of disciplinary techniques that remove children from the classroom, such as out-of-school suspension or expulsion, may contribute to racial and ethnic gaps in school achievement and drop-out rates.<sup>35,36</sup> In Rhode Island during the 2016-2017 school year, students of color received 53% of all disciplinary actions, although they made up only 41% of the student population.<sup>37</sup>

## Rhode Island's Hispanic Children and Youth

◆ In 2010, there were 45,940 Hispanic children under age 18 living in Rhode Island, up from 35,002 in 2000. Hispanic children made up 21% of Rhode Island's child population in 2010, compared with 14% in 2000.<sup>38</sup>

◆ In 2010, three-quarters (75%) of the Hispanic children in Rhode Island lived in the four core cities of Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket. While Providence has the largest Hispanic child population overall, Central Falls has the highest percentage of Hispanic children.<sup>39</sup>

◆ Rhode Island's Latino children are ranked lowest in the nation on the Race for Results Opportunity Index that measures indicators of child opportunity, including health, education and economic well-being.<sup>40</sup>

### Economics

◆ Between 2012 and 2016, 39% percent of Rhode Island's Hispanic children were living in poverty, compared to the national rate of 31%.<sup>37</sup> The median family income for Hispanics in Rhode Island was \$32,464, compared to \$75,655 overall in Rhode Island.<sup>41</sup>

### Health

◆ In Rhode Island between 2012 and 2016, 17.4% percent of Hispanic babies were born to women who received delayed or no prenatal care, compared with 14.5% of all babies in the state.<sup>42</sup>

◆ Between 2012 and 2016, Hispanic female teens between the ages of 15 and 19 in Rhode Island had a birth rate that was more than two times higher than the overall teen birth rate in Rhode Island (37.9 per 1,000 Hispanic teens ages 15 to 19 compared to 15.0 per 1,000 for all teens).<sup>43</sup>

### Education

◆ The four-year high school graduation rate among Hispanic youth in the class of 2017 was 76%, compared to Rhode Island's four-year high school graduation rate for all races of 84%.<sup>44</sup>

◆ The achievement gap between White and Latino students in Rhode Island is among the largest in the U.S.<sup>45</sup>

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