

Family and Community

blessing the boats (at St. Mary's)

by Lucille Clifton

may the tide
that is entering even now
the lip of our understanding
carry you out
beyond the face of fear
may you kiss
the wind then turn from it
certain that it will
love your back may you
open
your eyes to water
water waving forever
and may you in your innocence
sail through this to that



Child Population

DEFINITION

Child population is the total number of children under age 18 and the percentage change between 1990 and 2000 in the total number of children under age 18.

SIGNIFICANCE

In 2006, the number of family households with children under age 18 in Rhode Island was 119,247, representing almost a third (29%) of all households.¹ According to the American Community Survey conducted by the Census Bureau, there were 1,067,610 Rhode Island residents in 2006. Children under age 18 made up 22% (237,447) of the Rhode Island population, which is slightly lower than the child population in 2000.^{2,3} More than a quarter (26%) of Rhode Island children were under age 5, 26% were ages 5 to 9, 29% were ages 10 to 14, and 18% were ages 15 to 17.⁴

In 2006 in Rhode Island, 143,663 (61%) children under age 18 lived in a married-couple household, 70,712 (30%) children lived in a single-parent household, and 19,525 (8%) children lived with relatives, including married and single-parent grandparents or other relatives. A total of 2,470 (1%) children

lived with a foster family or other non-relative heads of household, and 1,077 (<1%) children lived in group quarters or other non-household situations, such as residential treatment programs.⁵

In Rhode Island between 2000 and 2006, the number of children under age 18 living in single-parent households increased 6%. The number of children living with a grandparent or other relative increased 10%, and the number of children living in a two-parent household decreased 8%.^{6,7}

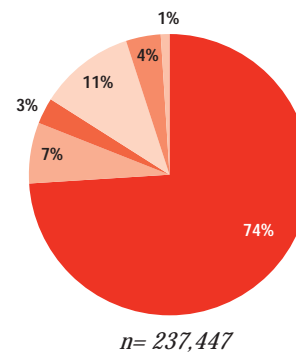
Rhode Island's children are diverse in race, ethnic background, language and country of origin. In 2006, there were 9,848 foreign-born children under age 18 living in Rhode Island, representing 4% of the child population.⁸ In Rhode Island, 78% of children ages 5-17 speak only English, 14% of children speak Spanish, 6% speak other Indo-European languages and 2% speak Asian or other Pacific Island languages at home.⁹

Sexual identity is another important facet of diversity among youth. In 2007, 7.2% of Rhode Island high school students described themselves as lesbian, gay or bisexual.¹⁰

Rhode Island's Children Under Age 18, 2006

By Race/Ethnicity*

74%	White
7%	Black
3%	Asian
11%	Some Other Race
4%	Two or More Races
1%	Race Unknown

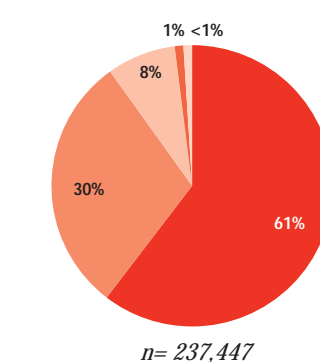


*Hispanic children may be included in any race category of Rhode Island's 237,447 children. 42,141 (18%) of Rhode Island's children are Hispanic.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2006. B01001A, B01001B, B01001D, B01001F, B01001G and B01001I.

By Family Structure

61%	Married Couple**
30%	Single Parent**
8%	Other Relatives
1%	Foster Family or Other Unrelated Household
<1%	Group Quarters or Other Non-Households



**Includes children who are related to the head of household by birth or adoption.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2006. Tables B09002, B09005, and B09006.

◆ According to the 2006 American Community Survey, 66% of children in Rhode Island lived in owner-occupied housing units and 34% lived in rental units.¹¹

◆ Of children ages 3 to 17 enrolled in school in Rhode Island in 2006, 83% were enrolled in public schools and 17% were enrolled in private schools.¹²

◆ In 2006, 8% of Rhode Island children had at least one specified disability, including either a long-lasting physical condition or difficulty completing educational or daily life tasks.¹³

Table 1. Child Population, Rhode Island, 1990 and 2000

CITY/TOWN	1990 TOTAL POPULATION UNDER AGE 18	2000 TOTAL POPULATION UNDER AGE 18	CHANGE IN POPULATION UNDER AGE 18	% CHANGE IN POPULATION UNDER AGE 18
Barrington	3,912	4,745	833	21%
Bristol	4,380	4,399	19	0%
Burrillville	4,479	4,043	-436	-10%
Central Falls	4,810	5,531	721	15%
Charlestown	1,575	1,712	137	9%
Coventry	7,626	8,389	763	10%
Cranston	14,673	17,098	2,425	17%
Cumberland	6,427	7,690	1,263	20%
East Greenwich	2,913	3,564	651	22%
East Providence	10,657	10,546	-111	-1%
Exeter	1,521	1,589	68	5%
Foster	1,185	1,105	-80	-7%
Glocester	2,526	2,664	138	6%
Hopkinton	1,839	2,011	172	9%
Jamestown	1,123	1,238	115	10%
Johnston	5,332	5,906	574	11%
Lincoln	3,890	5,157	1,267	33%
Little Compton	750	780	30	4%
Middletown	4,676	4,328	-348	-7%
Narragansett	2,869	2,833	-36	-1%
New Shoreham	163	185	22	14%
Newport	5,756	5,199	-557	-10%
North Kingstown	6,076	6,848	772	13%
North Providence	5,655	5,936	281	5%
North Smithfield	2,332	2,379	47	2%
Pawtucket	16,719	18,151	1,432	9%
Portsmouth	4,175	4,329	154	4%
Providence	37,972	45,277	7,305	19%
Richmond	1,565	2,014	449	29%
Scituate	2,426	2,635	209	9%
Smithfield	3,898	4,019	121	3%
South Kingstown	4,770	6,284	1,514	32%
Tiverton	3,166	3,367	201	6%
Warren	2,452	2,454	2	0%
Warwick	18,322	18,780	458	3%
West Greenwich	915	1,444	529	58%
West Warwick	6,560	6,632	72	1%
Westerly	4,988	5,406	418	8%
Woonsocket	10,617	11,155	538	5%
<i>Core Cities</i>	<i>82,434</i>	<i>91,945</i>	<i>9,511</i>	<i>12%</i>
<i>Remainder of State</i>	<i>143,256</i>	<i>155,877</i>	<i>12,621</i>	<i>9%</i>
<i>Rhode Island</i>	<i>225,690</i>	<i>247,822</i>	<i>22,132</i>	<i>10%</i>

Source of Data for Table/Methodology

U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census of the Population and Census 2000, Summary File 1.

Core cities are Central Falls, Newport, Pawtucket, Providence, West Warwick and Woonsocket.

References

¹ U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2006. Selected Social Characteristics: 2006.

^{2,4} U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2006. Table B01001.

³ U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2000. Table P004.

^{5,6} U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2006. Tables B09002, B09005 & B09006.

⁷ U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2000. Table P013.

⁸ U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2006. Table B05003.

⁹ U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2006. Table B16007.

¹⁰ Rhode Island Department of Health, *Youth Risk Behavior Survey*, 2007.

^{11,12,13} U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey 2006, Rhode Island Children Characteristics. 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 American Community Survey conducted by the Census Bureau, there were 214,375 children living with one or more of their parents in Rhode Island in 2006. Of these, 33% (70,712) were living with an unmarried parent, an increase from 27% in 2000. In 2006, 67% of Rhode Island children living with one or more of their parents were living in married-couple households.^{1,2}

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 a two-parent family.³

In 2006 in Rhode Island, 82% of children living in poverty were living in single-parent families. Children in single-parent families in Rhode Island were almost nine times more likely to

be living in poverty than those in married-couple families. In 2006, 35% of children in single-parent households lived in poverty, compared to 4% of children in married-couple households.⁴

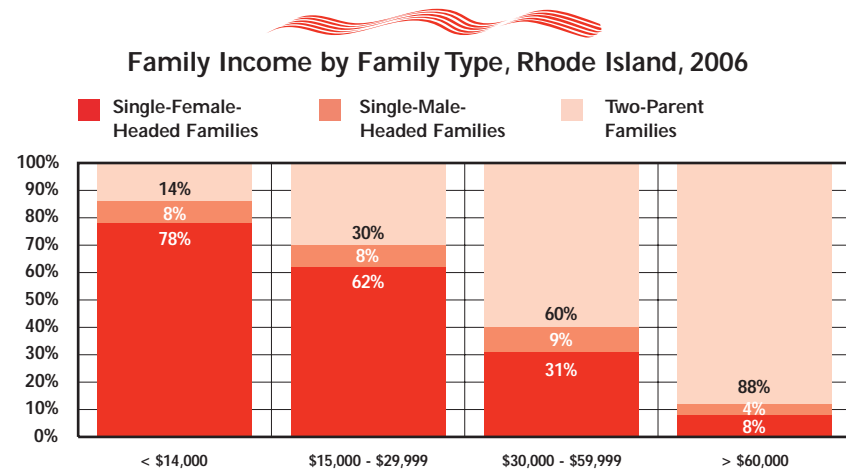
The financial barriers facing many single-parent families explain some of the differences in well-being between the children in single-parent households and those in two-parent households. Children who grow up in single-parent families are at increased risk for low academic achievement, low levels of social and emotional well-being, and increased levels of depression and stress. As adults they have diminished earnings and are more likely to have non-marital births, discordant marriages and to get divorced. Regardless of family structure, the quality of parenting is one of the best predictors of a child's well-being.⁵

Single-Parent Families		
	2000	2006
RI	27%	33%
US	25%	29%
National Rank*		44th
New England Rank**		6th

*1st is best; 50th is worst

**1st is best; 6th is worst

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey, Table B09002; U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 American Community Survey, Supplementary Survey Summary, Table PO13.



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2006. Table B19131.

◆ In 2006, 78% of all families with incomes below \$14,000 were headed by single females, 8% were headed by single males, and 14% were two-parent families.⁶

◆ The poverty rate of single-parent families differs substantially by race and ethnicity in Rhode Island. Racial and ethnic minority single-parent families are more likely to be poor than White single-parent families.⁷

◆ The number of adults a child lives with is associated with the amount of parental and economic resources available to promote that child's well-being.⁸ In 2006, 7% of children in Rhode Island lived in a household where the unmarried head of household lived with a partner.⁹

Barriers to Marriage for Low-income Couples

◆ Researchers have found that most low-income men and women value marriage and aspire to be married. However, many low-income women face significant barriers in identifying partners with adequate social and economic resources.¹⁰

◆ Barriers to marriage in low-income communities include low educational attainment among men, untreated substance abuse and mental health issues and high rates of male incarceration.¹¹

Children in Single-Parent Families

Table 2. Children's Living Arrangements, Rhode Island, 2000

CITY/TOWN	ALL CHILDREN LIVING IN FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS	NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18			
		TWO-PARENT FAMILIES		SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES	
		N	%	N	%
Barrington	4,592	4,091	89%	501	11%
Bristol	4,092	3,222	79%	870	21%
Burrillville	3,737	3,077	82%	660	18%
Central Falls	4,977	2,607	52%	2,370	48%
Charlestown	1,586	1,305	82%	281	18%
Coventry	7,807	6,287	81%	1,520	19%
Cranston	15,626	11,817	76%	3,809	24%
Cumberland	7,273	6,049	83%	1,224	17%
East Greenwich	3,476	3,042	88%	434	12%
East Providence	9,682	6,919	71%	2,763	29%
Exeter	1,461	1,248	85%	213	15%
Foster	1,037	914	88%	123	12%
Glocester	2,453	2,082	85%	371	15%
Hopkinton	1,893	1,576	83%	317	17%
Jamestown	1,194	1,018	85%	176	15%
Johnston	5,440	4,303	79%	1,137	21%
Lincoln	4,895	3,930	80%	965	20%
Little Compton	740	627	85%	113	15%
Middletown	4,150	3,363	81%	787	19%
Narragansett	2,641	2,002	76%	639	24%
New Shoreham	171	139	81%	32	19%
Newport	4,835	2,723	56%	2,112	44%
North Kingstown	6,546	5,255	80%	1,291	20%
North Providence	5,411	3,973	73%	1,438	27%
North Smithfield	2,221	1,922	87%	299	13%
Pawtucket	16,525	9,537	58%	6,988	42%
Portsmouth	4,136	3,476	84%	660	16%
Providence	40,267	19,721	49%	20,546	51%
Richmond	1,867	1,590	85%	277	15%
Scituate	2,490	2,179	88%	311	12%
Smithfield	3,800	3,184	84%	616	16%
South Kingstown	5,887	4,789	81%	1,098	19%
Tiverton	3,121	2,598	83%	523	17%
Warren	2,288	1,657	72%	631	28%
Warwick	17,276	13,571	79%	3,705	21%
West Greenwich	1,368	1,198	88%	170	12%
West Warwick	6,084	4,101	67%	1,983	33%
Westerly	5,077	3,759	74%	1,318	26%
Woonsocket	10,269	5,562	54%	4,707	46%
Core Cities	82,957	44,251	53%	38,706	47%
Remainder of State	145,434	116,162	80%	29,272	20%
Rhode Island	228,391	160,413	70%	67,978	30%

Note to Table

The denominator is the number of children under age 18 living in family households according to Census 2000. 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 also include others not related to the householder.

Source of Data for Table/Methodology

U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census 2000.

Core cities are Central Falls, Newport, Pawtucket, Providence, West Warwick and Woonsocket.

References

- ¹ U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2006. Table B09002.
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- ^{3,8} Thomas, A. & Sawhill, I. (2005). For love and money? The impact of family structure on family income. *The Future of Children: Marriage and Child Wellbeing* 15:2, 57-74.
- ⁴ U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2006. Table B17006.
- ⁵ Amato, P. (2005). The impact of family formation change on the cognitive, social, and emotional well-being of the next generation. *The Future of Children: Marriage and Child Wellbeing* 15:2, 75-96.
- ⁶ U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2006. Table B19131.
- ⁷ U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2004 and 2005. Tables B17010A, B17010B, B17010H, B17010I.
- ⁹ U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2006. Table B09008.
- ^{10,11} Roberts, P. (2007). *Out of order? Factors influencing the sequence of marriage and childbirth among disadvantaged Americans*. Washington, DC: Center for Law and Social Policy.

Grandparents Caring for Grandchildren

DEFINITION

Grandparents caring for grandchildren is defined by the U.S. Census Bureau as a grandparent who is financially responsible for food, shelter, clothing, child care, etc. for any or all grandchildren under 18 years old living in the household.

SIGNIFICANCE

Grandparents can provide continuity and family support for children in vulnerable families. Children may be in grandparent care because they have a parent who is unemployed, abusive, neglectful, incarcerated, ill, or has a substance abuse problem.¹

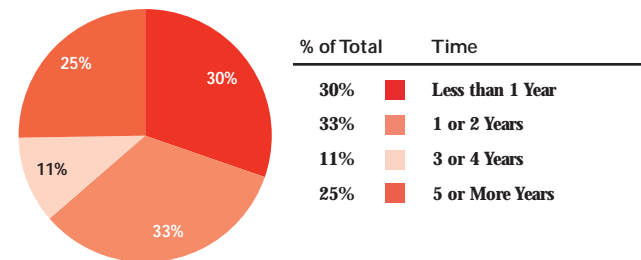
Grandparents living on fixed incomes may be at risk of poverty after they become financially responsible for their grandchildren.² Grandparent caregivers are more likely to live in poverty than other grandparents.³

Nationally, the majority of children in relative care (78%) are in private care, meaning that they have not been involved with a child welfare agency.⁴ Relative caregivers receive less training, information, and supervision than licensed non-relative foster parents.⁵ Studies indicate that relative caregivers are more likely to be poor, older, isolated from their community, and have less education than non-kin foster parents.⁶

Grandparent caregivers may not receive the support or services that they need and for which they are eligible. This may be because grandparents lack information and understanding about programs, such as cash assistance and Medicaid, or because grandparents feel that there is a stigma attached to receiving this assistance.^{7,8} Nearly all grandparent caregivers are eligible for either foster care payments or child-only Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) payments regardless of their household's income level, but few receive this assistance. Nationally, fewer than 1 in 4 children in private relative care receive any public monetary support, compared to over two thirds of children in relative care who were involved with a child welfare agency.⁹

Grandparent caregivers are at risk for poor physical and mental health.¹⁰ They may face legal barriers when enrolling children in school, or when seeking health insurance or medical care for the children.¹¹ Many children in relative care are unable to obtain permanent status such as adoption or guardianship, often because their caregivers do not pursue legal relationships that might strain family dynamics.¹² Grandparents make up the largest percentage of relative caregivers, but other relative caregivers, including aunts, uncles, cousins, and siblings, may face similar obstacles.¹³

Rhode Island Grandparents Financially Responsible for Their Grandchildren, by Length of Time Responsible, 2006



n = 6,116

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2006. Table B10050. Totals may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

- ◆ In 2006, more than one-third (36%) of Rhode Island grandparents who were financially responsible for their grandchildren had been responsible for the children for three or more years.¹⁴
- ◆ In 2006 in Rhode Island, there were 12,423 children living in households headed by grandparents, though grandparents may not have been financially responsible for their grandchildren. An additional 7,102 children lived in households headed by other relatives. Eight percent of all children living in Rhode Island lived with relative caregivers.¹⁵
- ◆ Children in private kinship care are almost twice as likely to live in poverty as children living with their parents. Nationally in 2002, nearly a third (31%) of children in kinship care lived in poverty and a sixth (17%) had no health insurance.¹⁶
- ◆ 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. On December 1, 2007 in Rhode Island, there were 700 children in DCYF care who were in out-of-home placements with a grandparent or other relative. These children made up 23% of all children in out-of-home placements in Rhode Island.¹⁷

Grandparents Caring for Grandchildren

Table 3.

Grandparents Caring for Grandchildren, Rhode Island, 2000

CITY/TOWN	TOTAL FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18	GRANDPARENTS IN HOUSEHOLDS WITH THEIR GRANDCHILDREN UNDER AGE 18		GRANDPARENTS FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR GRANDCHILDREN UNDER AGE 18	
		NUMBER	% OF ALL HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN	NUMBER	% OF ALL HOUSEHOLDS WITH CHILDREN
Barrington	2,421	176	7%	59	2%
Bristol	2,345	373	16%	88	4%
Burrville	2,037	175	9%	53	3%
Central Falls	2,607	313	12%	81	3%
Charlestown	899	126	14%	49	5%
Coventry	4,375	569	13%	89	2%
Cranston	8,873	1,283	14%	386	4%
Cumberland	4,049	614	15%	149	4%
East Greenwich	1,796	72	4%	27	2%
East Providence	5,562	839	15%	189	3%
Exeter	792	135	17%	79	10%
Foster	553	79	14%	0	0%
Glocester	1,351	115	9%	20	1%
Hopkinton	1,043	124	12%	29	3%
Jamestown	667	66	10%	0	0%
Johnston	3,113	491	16%	165	5%
Lincoln	2,691	333	12%	71	3%
Little Compton	409	29	7%	0	0%
Middletown	2,300	178	8%	54	2%
Narregansett	1,506	206	14%	69	5%
New Shoreham	101	7	7%	2	2%
Newport	2,643	309	12%	137	5%
North Kingstown	3,630	305	8%	92	3%
North Providence	3,214	796	25%	195	6%
North Smithfield	1,226	258	21%	118	10%
Pawtucket	9,179	1,264	14%	317	3%
Portsmouth	2,225	211	9%	70	3%
Providence	20,174	3,322	16%	1,219	6%
Richmond	1,019	117	11%	44	4%
Scituate	1,367	172	13%	29	2%
Smithfield	2,133	349	16%	69	3%
South Kingstown	3,155	320	10%	95	3%
Tiverton	1,797	290	16%	109	6%
Warren	1,290	204	16%	75	6%
Warwick	9,731	1,389	14%	376	4%
West Greenwich	746	56	8%	0	0%
West Warwick	3,496	344	10%	71	2%
Westerly	2,790	268	10%	120	4%
Woonsocket	5,532	680	12%	265	5%
Core Cities	43,631	6,232	14%	2,090	5%
Remainder of State	81,236	10,725	13%	2,970	4%
Rhode Island	124,867	16,957	14%	5,060	4%

Source of Data for Table/Methodology

U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

Core cities are Central Falls, Newport, Pawtucket, Providence, West Warwick and Woonsocket.

References

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⁶ Geen, R. (2003, April). Foster children placed with relatives often receive less government help. *New Federalism: National Survey of American Families, Series A, No.A-59*. Washington, DC: The Urban Institute.

⁹ Murray, J., Macomber, J., & Geen, R. (2004). Estimating financial support for kinship caregivers. *New Federalism: National Survey of American Families, Series B, No.B-63*. Washington, DC: The Urban Institute.

¹³ *Children in kinship care*. (2003). Washington, DC: The Urban Institute.

¹⁴ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2006. Table B10050.

¹⁵ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2006. Table B09006.

¹⁷ Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, Rhode Island Children's Information System (RICHIST), December 2007.

Infants Born at Highest Risk

DEFINITION

Infants born at highest risk is the percentage of babies born to Rhode Island women who were under age 20, unmarried and had less than 12 years of education.

SIGNIFICANCE

Maternal marital status, age, and education level at birth influence the likelihood that a child will live in poverty and predict many developmental vulnerabilities. The poverty rate for children born to a teenaged, unmarried mother who did not graduate from high school is 78%. In contrast, the poverty rate for children born to married women over age 20 with a high school diploma is 9%.¹

Most children facing these three economic and social risk factors at birth continue to face great challenges throughout childhood. Nationally, less than half of teen mothers complete high school and approximately 2% earn a college degree by age 30.² Young mothers without a high school diploma are likely to remain unmarried and a majority will be persistently low-income. Children born to mothers under age 20 are less likely to be ready for school at kindergarten entry, more likely to perform poorly in school and less likely to complete high school themselves.^{3,4,5}

Brain development proceeds rapidly during the infant and toddler years. By age 3, a child's brain has grown to 90% of its adult size and the foundation of many cognitive structures and systems are in place.⁶ Healthy brain development depends on attentive, nurturing caregiving in infancy.⁷ Research shows that helping families with multiple risk factors meet their basic needs and develop nurturing skills during the prenatal, infancy and toddler periods promotes success in school.⁸

A national analysis of early childhood interventions indicates that the most effective interventions have common design characteristics including: individualized services, highly trained staff, high quality programming, adequate intensity and duration, early initiation of services, trusting and continuous relationships between the service provider and the family, and a comprehensive, family-centered approach.⁹ Cost-benefit studies show that providing effective, intensive interventions to at-risk young children and their families can yield up to a \$17.00 return on every \$1.00 invested.¹⁰ Economists and scientists note that improving the social and cognitive environments of disadvantaged young children is the most cost-effective strategy for reducing child abuse and neglect, promoting school readiness and strengthening the future workforce.¹¹

Infants Born with Identified Risk Factors, Rhode Island, 2007

	# OF BIRTHS	# BORN AT RISK*	# BORN AT HIGHEST RISK**
Central Falls	380	365	40 (11%)
Newport	308	265	17 (6%)
Pawtucket	1,166	1,078	86 (7%)
Providence	2,936	2,797	277 (9%)
West Warwick	409	356	10 (2%)
Woonsocket	653	602	47 (7%)
Core Cities	5,852	5,463	477 (8%)
Remainder of State	6,156	4,908	171 (3%)
Rhode Island	12,010	10,372	648 (5%)

* Births with at least one risk factor identified by the Rhode Island Department of Health's Newborn Risk Assessment Program.

** Births to mothers who were younger than 20, single and without a high school degree.

Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, KIDSNET Database, 2007.

◆ **There are three important social and economic risk factors present at birth that, when combined, strongly predict childhood poverty and poor education outcomes – having a mother who is younger than 20, unmarried and without a high school degree.¹² Studies show that effective interventions targeting this population can improve child and family outcomes and yield a strong return on investment.¹³**

◆ **In 2007 in Rhode Island, 648 (5%) babies were born to unmarried teen mothers without high school diplomas.¹⁴**

Rhode Island Newborn Risk Assessment Program

◆ **The Rhode Island Department of Health screens all infants born in the state to identify risks for poor developmental outcomes, including: developmental disabilities, low birth weight, medical fragility, inadequate prenatal care, low Apgar scores at birth, low maternal education, young maternal age, advanced maternal age, single mother, first time mother, mother who has given birth more than five times, parental characteristics indicating vulnerability (e.g., chronic illness), and low income (indicated by use of Medicaid/Rite Care health insurance).¹⁵**

Infants Born at Highest Risk

Table 4. Infants Born at Highest Risk, Rhode Island, 2007

CITY/TOWN	NUMBER OF BIRTHS	BIRTHS TO MOTHERS WITHOUT A HIGH SCHOOL DEGREE	BIRTHS TO SINGLE MOTHERS	BIRTHS TO MOTHERS YOUNGER THAN AGE 20	BIRTHS TO MOTHERS WITH ALL 3 RISK FACTORS	% BIRTHS WITH ALL 3 RISK FACTORS
Barrington	116	1	13	4	1	<1%
Bristol	169	8	48	7	2	1%
Burrillville	127	9	39	3	2	2%
Central Falls	380	154	275	62	40	11%
Charlestown	57	4	15	3	2	4%
Coventry	319	20	80	16	6	2%
Cranston	834	88	306	57	32	4%
Cumberland	310	17	82	22	7	2%
East Greenwich	97	4	14	4	3	3%
East Providence	530	62	204	43	21	4%
Exeter	45	5	13	0	0	0%
Foster	42	3	9	1	0	0%
Glocester	65	2	16	2	1	2%
Hopkinton	91	7	28	2	0	0%
Jamestown	33	0	2	0	0	0%
Johnston	283	25	107	18	7	2%
Lincoln	181	10	46	9	3	2%
Little Compton	17	2	5	1	0	0%
Middletown	196	7	61	14	4	2%
Narragansett	100	3	31	4	3	3%
New Shoreham	7	0	1	0	0	0%
Newport	308	45	138	33	17	6%
North Kingstown	249	10	60	12	5	2%
North Providence	275	21	114	21	7	3%
North Smithfield	83	5	21	4	2	2%
Pawtucket	1,166	273	720	141	86	7%
Portsmouth	142	5	33	6	3	2%
Providence	2,936	951	1,994	449	277	9%
Richmond	81	7	28	7	3	4%
Scituate	73	1	18	3	1	1%
Smithfield	150	6	31	6	2	1%
South Kingstown	228	15	61	14	8	4%
Tiverton	72	5	27	2	1	1%
Warren	94	9	38	9	3	3%
Warwick	799	80	274	56	30	4%
West Greenwich	54	3	12	5	1	2%
West Warwick	409	59	194	35	10	2%
Westerly	237	31	87	15	11	5%
Woonsocket	653	172	404	77	47	7%
Unknown	2	0	0	0	0	NA
Core Cities	5,852	1,654	3,725	797	477	8%
Remainder of State	6,156	475	1,924	370	171	3%
Rhode Island	12,010	2,129	5,649	1,167	648	5%

Source of Data for Table/Methodology

The Rhode Island Department of Health, KIDSNET Database, 2007. Unknown refers to infants born to Rhode Island mothers whose residence was not recorded.

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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 a major impact on his child's development, this indicator uses mother's education level because a significant number of birth records lack information on father's education level.

SIGNIFICANCE

The level of parental educational attainment can affect many aspects of child well-being. Research shows strong links between parental education levels and children's health and health related behaviors, the level of education children will ultimately achieve, and their access to material, human and social resources.¹ Increases in maternal education levels have also been associated with improvements in children's academic performance.²

Higher education levels typically lead to higher earnings.³ Even if a child's parents work full-time, children are more likely to be low-income if their parents do not have a college education.⁴ Children of immigrants and minority children are less likely to have parents with high education levels and more likely to be low-income than their peers.^{5,6}

One of the best ways parents can raise their families' incomes is through higher education.⁷ Women with a bachelor's degree in Rhode Island earn more than twice as much as those with less than a high school diploma.⁸

In 2005, 15.4% of Rhode Island births were to mothers with less than a high school degree, the 15th lowest among the 38 comparable states and lower than the U.S. rate of 20.8%.⁹ Educational attainment levels vary widely across cities and towns in Rhode Island.¹⁰

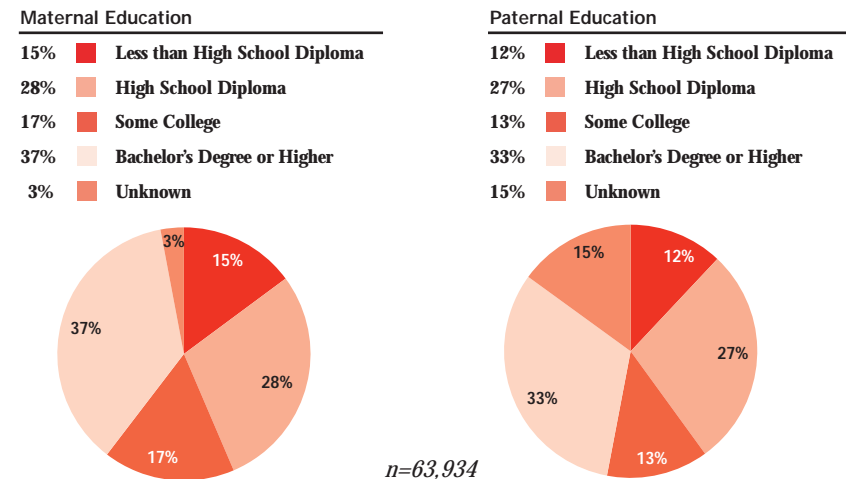
Of the 9,597 Rhode Island children born to mothers with less than a high school diploma between 2002 and 2006, 3,275 were to teen mothers (under age 20).¹¹ Nationally, teen mothers attain an average of 3 fewer years of education than older mothers.¹²

% of Births to Mothers with Less than High School Diploma

City/Town	% of Children
Central Falls	37%
Newport	16%
Pawtucket	21%
Providence	28%
West Warwick	14%
Woonsocket	24%
Remainder of State	6%
Rhode Island	15%

Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Hospital Discharge Database, 2002-2006.

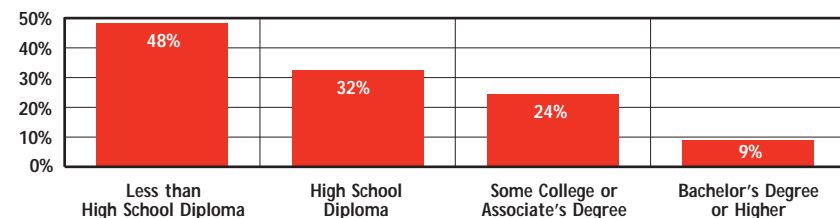
Births by Parental Education Levels, Rhode Island, 2002-2006



Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Division of Family Health, Maternal and Child Health Database, 2002-2006. Data for 2006 are provisional. Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding.

◆ In Rhode Island between 2002 and 2006, 39% of infants were born to fathers with a high school diploma or less, and 43% were born to mothers with a high school diploma or less.¹³

Poverty Status of Families Headed by Single Females by Educational Attainment, Rhode Island, 2006



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2006. Table S1702.

◆ The poverty status of families headed by single females is directly correlated with the householder's educational level. In Rhode Island in 2006, the poverty rates for families headed by single females ranged from 48% for women with less than a high school diploma to 9% for those with a bachelor's degree or higher.¹⁴

Mother's Education Level

Table 5.

Births by Education Level of Mother, Rhode Island, 2002-2006

CITY/TOWN	TOTAL # OF BIRTHS	BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR ABOVE		SOME COLLEGE		HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA		LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Barrington	774	625	81%	73	9%	56	7%	7	1%
Bristol	1,010	511	51%	204	20%	220	22%	57	6%
Burrillville	807	303	38%	193	24%	225	28%	68	8%
Central Falls	2,012	197	10%	252	13%	753	37%	737	37%
Charlestown	419	209	50%	90	21%	86	21%	28	7%
Coventry	1,863	864	46%	369	20%	507	27%	107	6%
Cranston	4,427	2,080	47%	778	18%	1,130	26%	362	8%
Cumberland	1,862	1,081	58%	346	19%	340	18%	68	4%
East Greenwich	539	400	74%	58	11%	52	10%	17	3%
East Providence	2,589	930	36%	546	21%	773	30%	275	11%
Exeter	300	154	51%	45	15%	76	25%	18	6%
Foster	222	118	53%	40	18%	53	24%	11	5%
Glocester	423	217	51%	88	21%	89	21%	23	5%
Hopkinton	445	181	41%	97	22%	129	29%	31	7%
Jamestown	210	156	74%	23	11%	22	10%	4	2%
Johnston	1,387	597	43%	268	19%	399	29%	104	7%
Lincoln	932	510	55%	180	19%	176	19%	43	5%
Little Compton	165	108	65%	27	16%	28	17%	1	1%
Middletown	1,023	504	49%	213	21%	249	24%	39	4%
Narragansett	558	325	58%	99	18%	88	16%	25	4%
New Shoreham	59	31	53%	20	34%	7	12%	0	0%
Newport	1,530	653	43%	225	15%	351	23%	250	16%
North Kingstown	1,388	826	60%	202	15%	264	19%	64	5%
North Providence	1,703	703	41%	358	21%	475	28%	113	7%
North Smithfield	485	266	55%	88	18%	88	18%	25	5%
Pawtucket	5,616	1,274	23%	1,003	18%	1,980	35%	1,160	21%
Portsmouth	890	546	61%	143	16%	156	18%	29	3%
Providence	14,943	3,319	22%	1,907	13%	4,849	32%	4,239	28%
Richmond	501	281	56%	84	17%	102	20%	26	5%
Scituate	454	249	55%	88	19%	94	21%	17	4%
Smithfield	743	428	58%	144	19%	128	17%	25	3%
South Kingstown	1,247	783	63%	162	13%	215	17%	49	4%
Tiverton	686	338	49%	172	25%	139	20%	31	5%
Warren	570	231	41%	128	22%	148	26%	56	10%
Warwick	4,337	2,046	47%	808	19%	1,115	26%	288	7%
West Greenwich	273	162	59%	51	19%	47	17%	11	4%
West Warwick	2,002	621	31%	359	18%	710	35%	278	14%
Westerly	1,306	507	39%	265	20%	399	31%	120	9%
Woonsocket	3,233	475	15%	557	17%	1,266	39%	791	24%
Unknown	1	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA
Core Cities	29,336	6,539	22%	4,303	15%	9,909	34%	7,455	25%
Remainder of State	34,597	17,270	50%	6,450	19%	8,075	23%	2,142	6%
Rhode Island	63,934	23,809	37%	10,753	17%	17,984	28%	9,597	15%

Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Rhode Island Department of Health, Division of Family Health, Maternal and Child Health Database, 2002-2006. Data for 2006 are provisional. 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 cities, towns and the state because of unknown education levels. Between 2002 and 2006, maternal education levels were unknown for 1,791 births (3%).

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- ¹⁴ U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2006. Table S1702.

Racial and Ethnic Diversity

DEFINITION

Racial and ethnic diversity is the number of children under age 18 by racial and ethnic categories as defined by the 2000 U.S. Census. For children living in households, racial and ethnic categories are chosen by the head of household or person completing the census form.

SIGNIFICANCE

Racial and ethnic diversity increased in the United States over the last several decades and is projected to rise in the future.¹ Minority children (all those except White, non-Hispanic children) accounted for 98% of the growth in the U.S. child population during the 1990s.² In 2000, 61% of all U.S. children were White non-Hispanic. By 2020, slightly more than half (53%) of all children in the United States are projected to be White, non-Hispanic.³

In 2000, 73% of children in Rhode Island were White, non-Hispanic, down from 84% in 1990. The number of minority children nearly doubled from 36,867 in 1990 to 67,747 in 2000. The number of White non-Hispanic children dropped by 8,748 during the same time period.^{4,5}

In 2006 in Rhode Island, 74% of children under 18 were White, 7% were Black or African American, 3% were Asian, 11% of children identified as Some Other Race, and 4% as Two or More Races. Race was unknown for less

than 1% of children in Rhode Island. In 2006, 18% of children living in Rhode Island were Hispanic.⁶

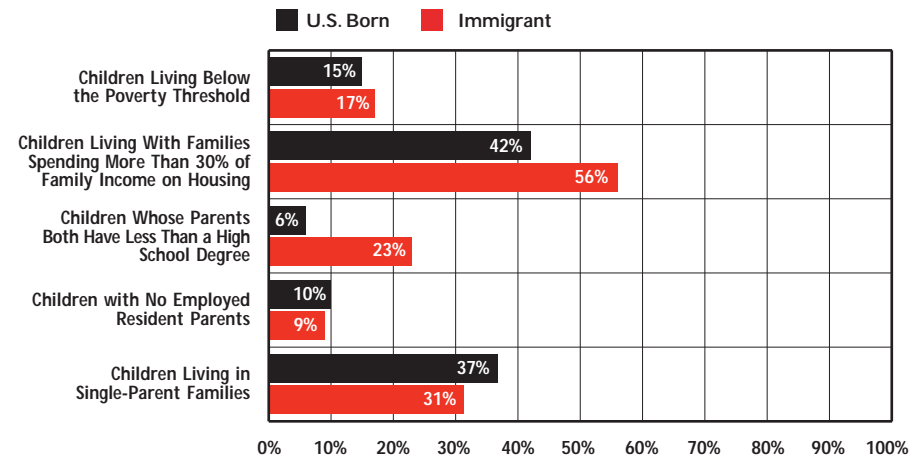
Minority children are highly concentrated in the six core cities in Rhode Island. Core cities are defined as cities with 15% or more of children living in poverty. More than half (58%) of children living in the core cities are minority children. More than three-quarters (78%) of all minority children in Rhode Island live in these six communities.⁷

In 2006, there were 9,848 foreign-born children under age 18 living in Rhode Island, 21% of whom were naturalized U.S. citizens.⁸ Of Rhode Island's immigrant children, 9% were born in Asia, 17% were born in Africa, 14% were born in Europe, 25% were born in the Caribbean, 31% were born in Central or South America, and 5% were born in Canada, Bermuda or Mexico.⁹

In 2006, 22% of children between the ages of 5 and 17 living in Rhode Island spoke a language other than English at home. Of these children, 93% spoke English well or very well.¹⁰

Diversity presents both opportunities and challenges to schools, child care centers, health care providers, social service agencies and other community service providers. Programs will need to adapt their current practices to meet the needs of a changing population.¹¹

Characteristics of Children Living in U.S.-born and Immigrant Families, Rhode Island, 2006



Source: Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the 2006 American Community Survey.

- ◆ **Twenty-three 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).¹² Most immigrant families in Rhode Island are not new arrivals to the United States; 2% of parents in Rhode Island immigrant families arrived in this county less than 5 years ago.¹³ Eighty-eight percent of children in immigrant families in Rhode Island were born in the United States.¹⁴**
- ◆ **Fifteen percent of children in Rhode Island with U.S.-born parents are poor, compared with 17% of children with immigrant parents. Almost three-quarters (72%) of Rhode Island's poor children live in families with U.S.-born parents.¹⁵**
- ◆ **In the U.S., higher rates of poverty among immigrant families are mainly due to lower labor force participation among immigrant women than native-born women and to the low wages received by many immigrants. Many immigrant parents earn low wages because of low levels of educational attainment and limited English proficiency.¹⁶ Twenty-three percent of children in immigrant families live in linguistically isolated households.¹⁷**

Table 6.

Child Population, by Race and Ethnicity, Rhode Island, 2000

CITY/TOWN	UNDER AGE 18 BY RACE AND ETHNICITY								2000 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	59	4,479	29	8	106	0	4	60	4,745
Bristol	88	4,183	30	3	21	4	3	67	4,399
Burrillville	59	3,915	11	8	6	0	11	33	4,043
Central Falls	3,122	1,574	292	29	22	0	225	267	5,531
Charlestown	38	1,597	7	26	12	0	1	31	1,712
Coventry	151	7,975	47	8	46	2	10	150	8,389
Cranston	1,213	14,041	513	59	796	5	71	400	17,098
Cumberland	231	7,185	65	5	70	3	38	93	7,690
East Greenwich	59	3,308	30	1	106	0	11	49	3,564
East Providence	360	8,366	681	48	114	4	323	650	10,546
Exeter	36	1,484	9	9	8	0	0	43	1,589
Foster	17	1,054	2	1	11	2	3	15	1,105
Glocester	31	2,573	15	2	10	0	1	32	2,664
Hopkinton	35	1,889	11	27	10	0	3	36	2,011
Jamestown	19	1,183	14	4	4	0	0	14	1,238
Johnston	203	5,425	63	9	93	1	21	91	5,906
Lincoln	151	4,694	73	2	116	1	21	99	5,157
Little Compton	12	756	1	0	2	0	0	9	780
Middletown	201	3,549	246	23	104	1	15	189	4,328
Narragansett	69	2,566	27	52	25	0	5	89	2,833
New Shoreham	3	175	3	0	3	0	0	1	185
Newport	602	3,485	555	86	55	7	51	358	5,199
North Kingstown	210	6,286	70	37	76	0	11	158	6,848
North Providence	377	5,033	208	12	122	3	48	133	5,936
North Smithfield	17	2,305	13	8	15	0	1	20	2,379
Pawtucket	3,820	10,090	1,776	53	131	7	1,251	1,023	18,151
Portsmouth	114	4,016	55	5	58	0	8	73	4,329
Providence	20,350	10,858	7,606	621	3,043	19	575	2,205	45,277
Richmond	32	1,916	7	19	8	0	0	32	2,014
Scituate	30	2,535	10	1	24	1	5	29	2,635
Smithfield	50	3,880	18	2	29	0	2	38	4,019
South Kingstown	128	5,561	87	126	169	0	19	194	6,284
Tiverton	46	3,234	15	4	18	0	8	42	3,367
Warren	36	2,294	38	4	11	1	6	64	2,454
Warwick	516	17,220	217	50	322	1	35	419	18,780
West Greenwich	13	1,396	4	3	7	0	5	16	1,444
West Warwick	384	5,792	86	29	102	3	26	210	6,632
Westerly	96	4,931	45	45	143	0	11	135	5,406
Woonsocket	2,024	7,272	606	29	591	5	46	582	11,155
Core Cities	30,302	39,071	10,921	847	3,944	41	2,174	4,645	91,945
Remainder of State	4,700	141,004	2,664	611	2,665	29	700	3,504	155,877
Rhode Island	35,002	180,075	13,585	1,458	6,609	70	2,874	8,149	247,822

Source of Data for Table/Methodology

U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 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.

The core cities are Central Falls, Newport, Pawtucket, Providence, West Warwick and Woonsocket.

References

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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 race, ethnic background, language and country of origin. Between 2000 and 2006, the percentage of children under age 18 who were minorities increased from 27% to 32%, a 19% increase. The child population in Rhode Island is more racially and ethnically diverse than the adult population, comparable to the overall U.S. trend.^{1,2,3}

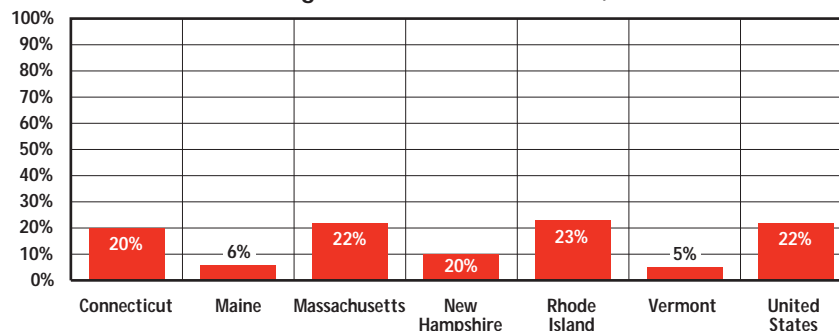
The increasing diversity of children in Rhode Island is not evenly distributed, with minority children concentrated in the core urban communities that have the highest rates of child poverty in the state. In 2000, more than three-quarters (78%) of Rhode Island's minority children lived in one of the six core cities (those cities with 15% or more of children living in poverty). In 2000, approximately three-quarters of the children in Providence (76%) and Central Falls (72%) were of minority racial and ethnic backgrounds.⁴ In several neighborhoods of Providence,

minority children accounted for more than 90% of the total child population, and had some of the highest child poverty rates in the state.⁵

Research demonstrates a significant relationship between residence in low-income or poor neighborhoods and increased teen pregnancy and high school dropout rates.⁶ Nationally in 2006, 18% of all children lived in poverty.⁷ In Rhode Island in 2006, 15% of children were living in poverty, of whom 44% were White, 16% were Black, and 3% were Asian. Forty-two percent of poor children in Rhode Island were Hispanic; Hispanic children are also included in other racial groups.⁸

The overall racial and ethnic segregation of U.S. neighborhoods has decreased over the past three decades. Yet, residential segregation for the child population has shown a less substantial decrease and has been countered by increased school segregation.⁹ The Providence-Fall River-Warwick metropolitan area was the second most segregated metropolitan area in the nation for Hispanics in 2000 and was also the metropolitan area with the largest increase in Hispanic segregation between 1980 and 2000.¹⁰

Percentage of Children Living in Immigrant Families, New England and United States, 2006



Source: Population Reference Bureau analysis of 2006 American Community Survey data.

Rhode Island Children in Immigrant Families

- ◆ **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 2006, 23% (52,533) of Rhode Island children were living in immigrant families, comparable to the U.S. rate of 22% and the Massachusetts and Connecticut rates of 22% and 20%.^{11,12}**
- ◆ **In 2006, 4% (9,848) of Rhode Island's 237,447 children under age 18 were foreign-born, 21% whom were naturalized citizens of the United States.^{13,14}**
- ◆ **Half of all children in Rhode Island immigrant families live in families with incomes above 200% of the federal poverty level. Almost one-third (31%) of children in Rhode Island's immigrant families have at least one parent with a college or graduate level education, many of whom work in professional capacities as doctors, engineers, teachers or researchers.¹⁵**
- ◆ **Half of the children in immigrant families are poor (17%) or low-income (33%), almost half (48%) of their parents have low levels of education and almost one-quarter (23%) of their parents have limited English-language skills.¹⁶ Understanding the needs of this more vulnerable group of immigrants can help policymakers and community leaders to ensure that all children in Rhode Island grow up with the opportunities they need to succeed.**

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

	WHITE	HISPANIC	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	ALL RACES
Children in Poverty	9%	36%	36%	14%	NA	15%
Births to Mothers with < 12 years Education	14%	33%	22%	16%	31%	15%
% of Children with All Resident Parents in the Workforce	71%	48%	65%	54%	47%	68%
Median Family Income	\$70,468	\$30,909	\$43,517	\$61,129	NA	\$64,733
Homeownership	68%	28%	32%	51%	55%	63%

Sources: *Children in Poverty* data are from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2006. Tables B17001, B17020A, B17020B, B17020C, B17020D & B17020I. *Maternal Education* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Health, Maternal and Child Health Database, 2002-2006. *Parental Labor Force Participation* data are from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census 2000, Tables P46, PCT70A, PCT70B, PCT70C, PCT70D & PCT70H. *Median Family Income* data are from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2006, Table B19113, B19113A, B19113B, B19113D & B19113I. *Homeownership* data are from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2006, Tables B25003, B25003A, B25003B, B25003C, B25003D & B25003I. Hispanics may also be included in any of the race categories. All Census data refer only to those individuals who selected one race. NA indicates that the data are statistically unreliable due to small population or sample sizes.

◆ In 2006, there were 35,456 children under age 18 living in families with incomes below the federal poverty level in Rhode Island, which is a decrease from 2005 of 11,438 children. In 2006, 36% of both Black and Hispanic children in Rhode Island lived in poor families, compared with 9% of White children and 14% of Asian children.^{17,18}

◆ In 2006 in Rhode Island, approximately one-third of Black and Hispanic households owned their homes, compared with approximately half of Asian and Native American households and two-thirds of White households.¹⁹

◆ In 2006, 76% of White children had all of their resident parents in the workforce, compared to 65% of Black children, 54% of Asian children and 48% of Hispanic children.²⁰

◆ 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.²¹ Hispanic, Black and Native American children are all more likely than White and Asian children to be born to mothers with less than a high school diploma.²²

Health Outcomes, by Race and Ethnicity, Rhode Island

	WHITE	HISPANIC	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	ALL RACES
Women with Delayed Prenatal Care	9%	14%	18%	19%	19%	11%
Preterm Births	11%	13%	15%	14%	16%	13%
Infants Born Low Birthweight	8%	8%	11%	10%	13%	8%
Infant Mortality (per 1,000 births)	5.5	8.0	12.3	7.3	7.6	6.2
Asthma Hospitalizations (per 1,000 births)	3.2	6.1	9.1	2.2	0.4	4.0
Births to Teens Ages 15 – 19 (per 1,000 teens)	29.9	94.8	75.6	33.2	130.1	30.7

Sources: All data are from the Rhode Island Department of Health, Division of Family Health, Maternal and Child Health Database 2002-2006 unless otherwise specified. Information is based on self-reported race and ethnicity. *Asthma Hospitalizations* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Health, Hospital Discharge Database, 2002-2006. For *Asthma Hospitalizations* the denominators are the child population by race from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census 2000, SF1. For *Births to Teens* the denominators are the child population by race from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census 2000, SF3. NA indicates that the data are statistically unreliable due to small population or sample sizes. For all indicators other than *Asthma Hospitalizations*, Hispanics may also be included in any of the race categories.

◆ Although progress has been made on many health indicators across racial and ethnic populations, disparities still exist for a number of maternal and child outcomes. Minority women are far more likely to receive delayed or no prenatal care, to give birth to low birthweight babies and to give birth as teenagers. Minority children are more likely to die in infancy than White children and Black and Hispanic children are more likely to be hospitalized as a result of asthma than White or Asian children.²³

◆ In 2005 in the United States, 7% of White non-Hispanic children under age 18 were not covered by health insurance, compared with 22% of Hispanic children, 12% of Black children and 12% of Asian children.²⁴

Racial and Ethnic Disparities

Safety Outcomes, by Race and Ethnicity, Rhode Island

	WHITE	HISPANIC	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	ALL RACES
Juveniles at the Training School (per 1,000)	1.7	6.8	15.6	2.2	3.0	2.9
Children of Incarcerated Parents (per 1,000)	8.7	21.9	81.7	2.3	19.9	14.1
Children in Out of Home Placement (per 1,000)	9.8	20.0	44.0	9.6	17.9	12.3

Sources: *Juveniles at the Training School* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, Rhode Island Training School, January 1, 2008 (includes adjudicated youth). *Children of Incarcerated Parents* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Corrections, September 30, 2007 (includes only the sentenced population). *Children in Out-of-Home Placement* data are from the Department of Children, Youth and Families, RICHIST Database, December 31, 2007. Population denominators used for *Children of Incarcerated Parents* are the populations under age 18 by race from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, SF1. Population denominators used for *Children in Out-of-Home Placement* are the populations under age 18 by race from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, SF3. The population denominators used for *Juveniles at the Training School* are the populations ages 14-19 by race from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, SF3.

◆ **Racial and ethnic minority groups continue to be disproportionately represented in juvenile justice systems in the U.S. Minority youth are treated more harshly than White, non-Hispanic youth for the same type and severity of offenses at every critical point in the justice system, from detention and formal processing in juvenile court, to sentencing and incarceration in juvenile and adult correctional facilities.²⁵ Non-Hispanic Black males are far more likely to be incarcerated at any age than youth of other races.²⁶**

◆ **Children and youth of color are also overrepresented in the American child welfare system; they account for 55% of children in foster care despite making up only 33% of the total child population in the United States. The greatest disparities exist for Black children who account for 15% of the U.S. child population and 38% of children in foster care. Higher poverty rates among minority families contribute to this trend. Research also shows disparate treatment of minority children as they enter the foster care system and while they are in the system. Black and Hispanic families are more likely than non-Hispanic White families under similar circumstances to be reported for child abuse and neglect and to have their child removed. Native American children are also overrepresented in the child welfare system.²⁷**

Education Outcomes, by Race and Ethnicity, Rhode Island

	WHITE	HISPANIC	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	ALL RACES
4th Grade Students Reading at or above Proficiency	72%	40%	48%	64%	43%	64%
8th Grade Students Reading at or above Proficiency	70%	38%	41%	62%	56%	61%
High School Graduation Rates	91%	82%	86%	89%	69%	89%
% of Adults Over 25 with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher	31%	13%	19%	44%	NA	30%

Sources: *4th Grade Reading Proficiency Rates, 8th Grade Reading Proficiency Rates & High School Graduation Rates* are from the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 2006-2007 school year. *Adult Educational Attainment* data are from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2006, Tables B15002, B15002A, B15002B, B15002C, B15002D & B15002I. All Census data refer only to those individuals who selected one race; Hispanics may also be included in any of the race categories. NA indicates that data are statistically unreliable due to small population or sample sizes.

◆ **In Rhode Island, Hispanic, Native American and Black children are less likely to be proficient in reading in both 4th and 8th grades than White children. Minority children are also less likely than White children to graduate from high school.²⁸ In 2006 in Rhode Island, Black and Hispanic adults were less likely to have a bachelor's degree than White or Asian adults.²⁹**

◆ **Black, Hispanic, Native American and Asian students in Rhode Island are underrepresented in many disability areas, including autism and visual impairments. Asian students are also more likely than others to receive services for hearing impairments. Black, Hispanic and Native American students are disproportionately identified as having mental retardation.³⁰**

◆ **According to the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, during the 2005-2006 school year, children of color were far more likely than White children to attend schools making insufficient progress. Rhode Island's Hispanic and Black children attended schools making insufficient progress at rates about three times greater than White children.**



Rhode Island's Hispanic Children

◆ In 2006, there were 42,141 Hispanic children under age 18 living in Rhode Island, up from 34,924 in 2000. Between 2000 and 2006 the Hispanic child population grew by 21% whereas the total child population in Rhode Island decreased by 4%.^{31,32}

◆ Three-quarters (78%) of the Hispanic children in Rhode Island live in Central Falls, Pawtucket, and Providence.³³ While Providence has the largest population of Hispanics overall, the Hispanic population is most densely concentrated in Central Falls.³⁴

Economics

◆ Thirty-six percent of Hispanic children were living in poverty in 2006 in Rhode Island, compared to the national rate of 28%.^{35,36} In 2000, Rhode Island Hispanics had the lowest median family income of all Hispanics in the United States.³⁷

◆ In 2006, the unemployment rate for Hispanics was higher than that of both White and Black Rhode Islanders.³⁸

Health

◆ In Rhode Island, 14% of Hispanic women who give birth receive delayed prenatal care, compared with 11% of all races in 2006. Hispanic female teens between the ages of 15 and 19 in Rhode Island have a birth rate that is more than 3 times as high as the state rate overall (94.8 per 1,000 teens ages 15-19 compared to 30.7 per 1,000).^{39,40}

Education

◆ Hispanics in Rhode Island have lower educational attainment levels than the population overall. In 2007, the high school graduation rate for Hispanic youth was 82%, lower than the overall Rhode Island high school graduation rate of 89%.⁴¹ In 2006, 13% of Hispanics 25 years of age and older held a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 30% of all Rhode Islanders.⁴²

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¹⁸ U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2005. Table B07001.

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