

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 2007, there were 117,132 family households with children under age 18 in Rhode Island, representing almost a third (29%) of all households.¹ According to the American Community Survey conducted by the Census Bureau, there were 1,057,832 Rhode Island residents in 2007. Children under age 18 made up 22% (234,821) of the Rhode Island population. The 2007 child population was slightly lower than the child population in 2000.^{2,3} More than a quarter (26%) of Rhode Island children were under age 5, 28% were ages 5 to 9, 27% were ages 10 to 14, and 18% were ages 15 to 17.⁴

In 2007 in Rhode Island, 150,210 (64%) children under age 18 lived in a married-couple household, 66,079 (28%) children lived in a single-parent household, and 14,767 (6%) children lived with relatives, including married and single-parent grandparents or other relatives. A total of 3,174 (1%) children lived with a foster family or other non-relative head of household, and 591

(<1%) children lived in group quarters or other non-household situations, such as residential treatment programs.⁵

The total number of children in all household types in Rhode Island saw decreases between 2000 and 2007. The number of children under age 18 living in single-parent households decreased 1%, the number of children living with a grandparent or other relative decreased 17%, and the number of children living in a two-parent household decreased 4%.^{6,7}

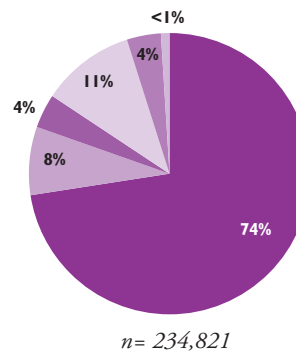
Rhode Island's children are diverse in race, ethnic background, language and country of origin. In 2007, there were 9,620 foreign-born children under age 18 living in Rhode Island, representing 4% of the child population.⁸ In Rhode Island, 77% of children ages 5-17 speak only English, 15% of children speak Spanish, 5% speak other Indo-European languages and 2% speak an Asian or other Pacific Island language at home.⁹

Sexual identity is another important facet of diversity among youth. According to the *2007 Youth Risk Behavior Survey* 7.2% of Rhode Island high school students described themselves as lesbian, gay or bisexual. This does not include students who responded "not sure" when asked about their sexual identity.¹⁰

Rhode Island's Children under Age 18, 2007

By Race/Ethnicity*

74%	White
8%	Black
4%	Asian
11%	Some Other Race
4%	Two or More Races
<1%	Race Unknown

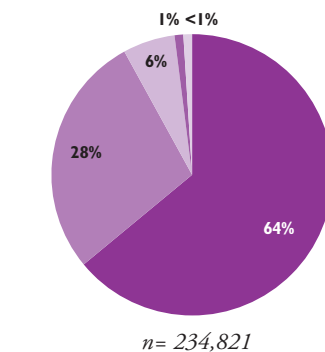


*Hispanic children may be included in any race category. Of Rhode Island's 234,821 children, 42,382 (18%) were Hispanic.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2007. B01001, B01001A, B01001B, B01001D, B01001F, B01001G and B01001I. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

By Family Structure

64%	Married Couple**
28%	Single Parent**
6%	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, 2007. Tables B09002, B09005, and B09006. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

◆ According to the 2007 American Community Survey, 66% of children in Rhode Island lived in owner-occupied housing units and 34% lived in renter-occupied units.¹¹

◆ Of children ages 3 to 17 enrolled in school in Rhode Island in 2007, 83% were enrolled in public schools and 17% were enrolled in private schools.¹²

◆ In 2007, 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, 2007. Rhode Island: Selected Social Characteristics in the United States: 2007.
- ^{2,4} U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2007. 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, 2007. Tables B09001, 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, 2007. Table B05003.
- ⁹ U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2007. 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, 2007. Table S0901: Rhode Island Children Characteristics.