



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}

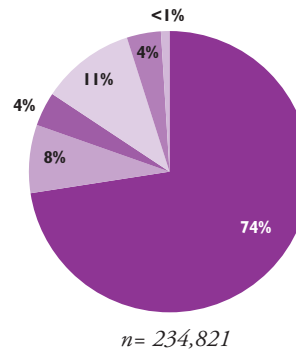
Rhode Island's children are diverse in race, ethnic background, language and country of origin. In 2007, there were 9,620 foreign-born children under age 18 living in Rhode Island, representing 4% of the child population.⁸ In Rhode Island, 77% of children ages 5-17 speak only English, 15% of children 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

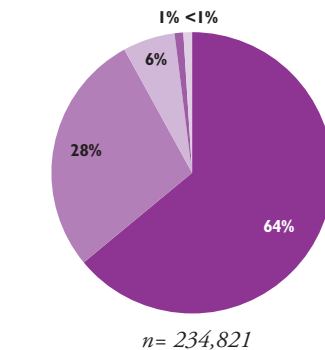


*Hispanic children may be included in any race category. Of Rhode Island's 234,821 children, 42,382 (18%) were Hispanic.

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.

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 U.S. Census Bureau, there were 216,289 children living with one or more of their parents in Rhode Island in 2007. Of these, 31% (66,079) were living with an unmarried parent, an increase from 27% in 2000. In 2007, 69% 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 2007 in Rhode Island, 78% of children living in poverty were living in single-parent families. Children in single-parent families in Rhode Island were seven times more likely to be

living in poverty than those in married-couple families. In 2007, 42% of children in single-parent households lived in poverty, compared to 6% 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 (whether they were due to divorce or the parents never having been married) 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

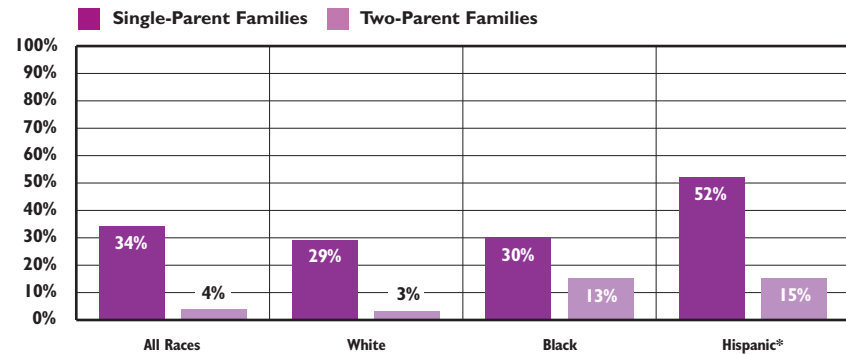
Single-Parent Families		
	2000	2007
RI	32%	33%
US	31%	32%
National Rank*		31st
New England Rank**		6th

*1st is best; 50th is worst

**1st is best; 6th is worst

Source: Annie E. Casey Foundation KIDS COUNT Data center. (n.d.). *Comparisons by topic: Children in single-parent families, 2000 and 2007*. Retrieved January 13, 2009 from www.kidscount.org/datacenter

Families with Children under Age 18 and Income below the Poverty Threshold by Race & Ethnicity, Rhode Island, 2007



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2007. Tables B17010, B17010A, B17010B & B17010I. *Hispanic families may also be in any race category.

- ◆ **Hispanic single-parent families are more likely than other single-parent families in Rhode Island to live in poverty. Black and Hispanic married-parent families are also more likely than White married-parent families in Rhode Island to live in poverty.**⁶
- ◆ **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.**⁷ In 2007, 7% of children in Rhode Island lived in a household where the unmarried head of household lived with a partner.⁸

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.**⁹
- ◆ **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.**¹⁰
- ◆ **Government policies can better support work and marriage by targeting tax and transfer programs towards efforts that help low-income men develop skills, find stable employment and be involved with their families.**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%
<i>Core Cities</i>	<i>82,957</i>	<i>44,251</i>	<i>53%</i>	<i>38,706</i>	<i>47%</i>
<i>Remainder of State</i>	<i>145,434</i>	<i>116,162</i>	<i>80%</i>	<i>29,272</i>	<i>20%</i>
<i>Rhode Island</i>	<i>228,391</i>	<i>160,413</i>	<i>70%</i>	<i>67,978</i>	<i>30%</i>

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, 2007. Table B09002.
- ² U.S. Bureau of the Census, 2000 Census Supplementary Survey Summary Tables. Table P013.
- ^{3,7} 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, 2007. 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, 2007. Tables B17010, B17010A, B17010B & B17010I.
- ⁸ U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2007. Table B09008.
- ^{9,10} 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.
- ¹¹ Carasso, A., Holzer, H., Maag, E. & Steuerle, C. (2008). *The next stage for social policy: encouraging work and family formation among low-income men*. Washington, DC: The Urban Institute.

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, day 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, and/or has a substance abuse problem.¹

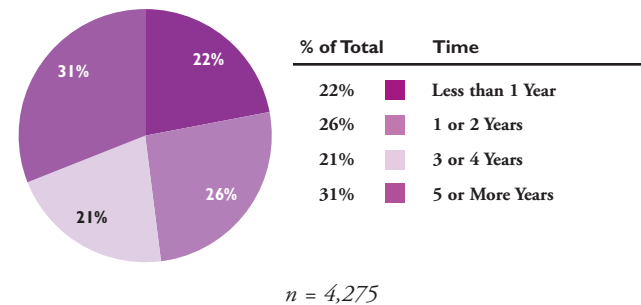
Grandparents living on a fixed income may be at greater risk of poverty after they become financially responsible for their grandchildren.² In fact, grandparent caregivers are more likely to live in poverty than other grandparents.³

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, support 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-relative 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 may 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, an estimated one in five children in private relative care received any public monetary support, compared to 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 want to pursue a legal relationship in hopes of avoiding strain on family relationships.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, 2007



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007. Table B10050.

◆ In 2007, more than one-half of the 4,275 Rhode Island grandparents who were financially responsible for their grandchildren had been responsible for the children for three or more years.¹⁴ There were a total of 10,565 children living in households headed by grandparents, though grandparents may not have been financially responsible for their grandchildren. An additional 4,202 children lived in households headed by other relatives. Six percent of all children living in Rhode Island lived in households headed by a relative other than a parent.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 one-third (31%) of children in kinship care lived in poverty and one-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, 2008 in Rhode Island, there were 646 children in DCYF care who were in out-of-home placements with a grandparent or other relative. These children made up 24% of all children in out-of-home placements in Rhode Island.¹⁷

◆ The federal *Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008* helps children and youth in foster care establish permanent families through relative guardianship and adoption. Provisions of the Act include increased notice to relatives when children enter care, federal funds for supporting improved subsidized guardianship payments for relatives, and clarified licensing standards for relative foster family homes.¹⁸

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

- ^{1,10,11,12} Children's Defense Fund. (n.d.). *Kinship care resource kit*. Retrieved January 13, 2009 from www.cdf.org
- ^{2,7} American Association of Retired Persons. (2007). *Public benefits programs*. Retrieved January 9, 2009 from www.aarp.org
- ³ Heller, T. & Ganguly, R. (n.d.). *Grandparents raising grandchildren with developmental disabilities*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, U.S. Administration on Aging, National Family Caregiver Support Program.
- ^{4,8,16} Main, R., Macomber, J., & Geen, R. (2006). Trends in service receipt: Children in kinship care gaining ground. *New Federalism: National Survey of American Families, Series B, No.B-68*. Washington, DC: The Urban Institute.
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- ⁶ Geen, R. (2003). 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 Federation: National Survey of American Families, Series B, No.B-63*. The Urban Institute.
- ¹³ *Children in kinship care*. (2003). Washington, DC: The Urban Institute.
- ¹⁴ U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2007. Table B10050.
- ¹⁵ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007. Table B09006.
- ¹⁷ Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, Rhode Island Children's Information System (RICHIST), December 2008.
- ¹⁸ Generations United. (n.d.). *Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act will improve outcomes for children and youth in foster care*. Retrieved December 1, 2008 from www.gu.org

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 fewer than 12 years of education.

SIGNIFICANCE

Maternal marriage status, age, and education level at birth influence the likelihood that a child will live in poverty and predict many developmental vulnerabilities. When a child is born to a teenage, unmarried mother who has not graduated from high school, he or she is nine times more likely to grow up in poverty than a child born to a married woman over age 20 with a high school diploma.¹

Most children facing these three economic and social risk factors at birth continue to face great challenges throughout childhood. Teen mothers have great difficulty completing high school, are likely to remain unmarried, and a majority will remain persistently low income.^{2,3} Children born to mothers under age 20 are more likely to suffer abuse and neglect and are less likely to be ready for school at kindergarten entry, to perform well in school, and to complete high school themselves.^{4,5}

Brain development proceeds rapidly during the infant and toddler years. By

age three, 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 there is a negative impact on brain development when young children do not have consistent, supportive relationships with caregivers and are exposed to "toxic stress" associated with extreme poverty, family chaos, chronic neglect and/or abuse, severe maternal depression, parental substance abuse, and repeated exposure to violence at home or in their communities.⁸

Providing early and intensive support to families with multiple risk factors can help parents develop critical nurturing skills during the prenatal, infancy and toddler periods and improve child development outcomes.⁹ Cost-benefit studies show that effective interventions for at-risk young children and their families can yield up to a \$17.00 return on every \$1.00 invested.¹⁰ Economists and scientists agree 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, 2008

	# OF BIRTHS	# BORN AT RISK*	# BORN AT HIGHEST RISK**
Central Falls	396	382	37 (9%)
Newport	269	226	8 (3%)
Pawtucket	1,021	921	75 (7%)
Providence	2,900	2,704	257 (9%)
West Warwick	376	302	20 (5%)
Woonsocket	624	566	50 (8%)
Core Cities	5,586	5,101	447 (8%)
Remainder of State	6,071	4,687	160 (3%)
Rhode Island	11,668	9,788	607 (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 under age 20, single and without a high school degree.

Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, KIDSNET Database, 2008.

◆ 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 under age 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 2008 in Rhode Island, 607 (5%) babies were born to unmarried teen mothers without high school diplomas.¹⁴



Nurse-Family Partnership

◆ The Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) program is an evidence-based home visiting model that has been replicated in 23 states. Nurses conduct a series of home visits to low-income, first-time mothers, starting during pregnancy and continuing through the child's second birthday. The model has operating costs of approximately \$4,500 per family per year based on experiences in other states.¹⁵

◆ NFP focuses on improving pregnancy outcomes, parenting skills, and the mother's self-sufficiency. The program has demonstrated numerous positive benefits for children and families, including: reduced child abuse and neglect, fewer preterm deliveries, fewer subsequent births, longer duration between births, lower rates of criminal behavior of mothers, and improved child language skills and academic achievement scores.¹⁶

Infants Born at Highest Risk

Table 4.

Infants Born at Highest Risk, Rhode Island, 2008

CITY/TOWN	TOTAL # 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	% OF BIRTHS WITH ALL 3 RISK FACTORS
Barrington	111	2	17	3	1	1%
Bristol	149	7	47	6	2	1%
Burrillville	133	4	43	4	1	1%
Central Falls	396	143	300	60	37	9%
Charlestown	59	1	15	1	0	0%
Coventry	313	29	95	25	11	4%
Cranston	835	71	282	48	26	3%
Cumberland	290	13	71	13	5	2%
East Greenwich	112	2	22	1	0	0%
East Providence	506	60	199	38	21	4%
Exeter	52	4	18	3	0	0%
Foster	44	1	9	0	0	0%
Glocester	66	4	18	4	3	5%
Hopkinton	90	8	35	6	3	3%
Jamestown	24	0	2	0	0	0%
Johnston	296	24	107	21	5	2%
Lincoln	163	9	40	6	4	2%
Little Compton	23	0	9	1	0	0%
Middletown	185	10	45	7	3	2%
Narragansett	76	4	14	2	0	0%
New Shoreham	13	0	3	0	0	0%
Newport	269	28	114	21	8	3%
North Kingstown	231	17	65	15	6	3%
North Providence	335	24	139	18	7	2%
North Smithfield	68	4	16	2	0	0%
Pawtucket	1,021	224	642	131	75	7%
Portsmouth	117	2	20	0	0	0%
Providence	2,900	879	1,945	456	257	9%
Richmond	86	9	29	13	9	10%
Scituate	59	0	11	0	0	0%
Smithfield	122	3	32	4	0	0%
South Kingstown	215	13	63	11	8	4%
Tiverton	69	5	17	3	1	1%
Warren	88	9	37	4	4	5%
Warwick	810	72	266	64	36	4%
West Greenwich	51	3	11	3	1	2%
West Warwick	376	52	161	33	20	5%
Westerly	280	21	103	15	3	1%
Woonsocket	624	171	405	92	50	8%
Unknown	11	1	5	2	0	NA
Core Cities	5,586	1,497	3,567	793	447	8%
Remainder of State	6,071	435	1,900	341	160	3%
Rhode Island	11,668	1,933	5,472	1,136	607	5%

Source of Data for Table/Methodology

The Rhode Island Department of Health, KIDSNET Database, 2008. Unknown refers to infants born to mothers whose residence was not recorded. This table shows the number and percentage of all births with three risk factors that place a child at very high risk for poor developmental outcomes.

Note: 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). Data on all births with any of these risk factors are presented in the chart on the previous page.

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

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- ² *Teen pregnancy, poverty, and income disparity.* (2008). Washington, DC: National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.
- ⁴ Terry-Humen, E., Manlove, J., & Moore, K. A. (2005). *Playing catch up: How children born to teen mothers fare.* Washington, DC: The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.
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- ⁶ Perry, B. D. (2001). *Bonding and attachment in maltreated children: Consequences of emotional neglect in childhood.* Houston, TX: The Child Trauma Academy.
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(continued on page 152)

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 maternal education levels because a significant number of birth records lack information on paternal education levels.

SIGNIFICANCE

Parental educational attainment can impact many aspects of child well-being. Parental education levels influence 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, Black children and Hispanic children are less likely to have parents with high education levels and more likely to be low income than their peers. However, Black and Hispanic children are more

likely to be low income than White and Asian children even when their parents have comparable levels of education.^{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 Between 2003 and 2007, 15% of Rhode Island births were to mothers with less than a high school diploma and 37% were to mothers with a bachelor's degree or higher.⁹ Educational attainment levels vary widely across cities and towns in Rhode Island.¹⁰

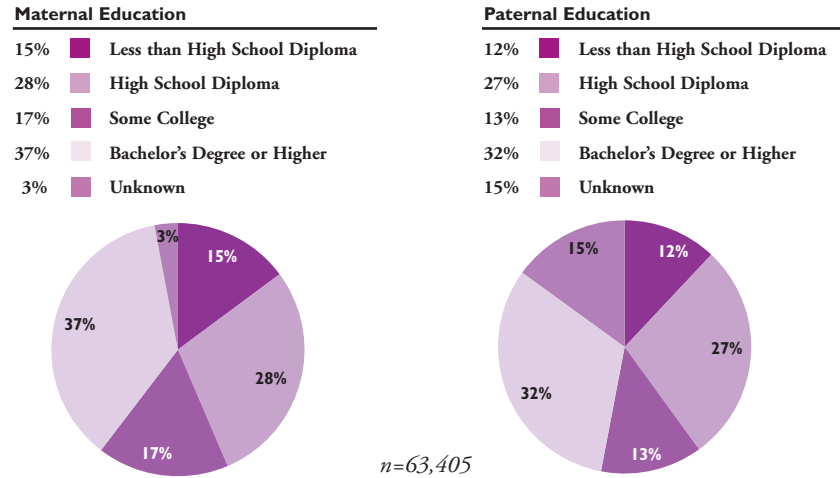
Of the 9,802 Rhode Island children born to mothers with less than a high school diploma between 2003 and 2007, 3,273 were to teen mothers (under age 20).¹¹ Nationally, teen mothers attain an average of three fewer years of education than older mothers.¹²

% of Births to Mothers with Less than High School Diploma

City/Town	% of Children
Central Falls	36%
Newport	16%
Pawtucket	21%
Providence	29%
West Warwick	15%
Woonsocket	25%
Remainder of State	6%
Rhode Island	15%

Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Hospital Discharge Database, 2003-2007.

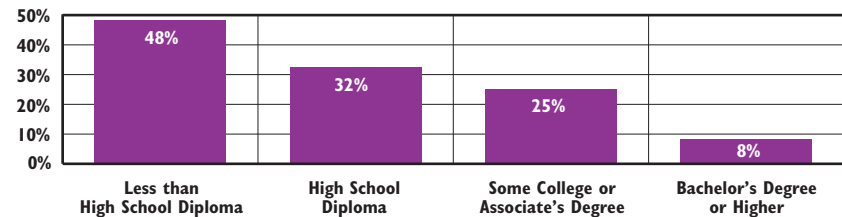
Births by Parental Education Levels, Rhode Island, 2003-2007



Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Division of Family Health, Maternal and Child Health Database, 2003-2007. Data for 2007 are provisional. Percentages may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

◆ In Rhode Island between 2003 and 2007, 43% of infants were born to mothers with a high school diploma or less, and 39% were born to fathers with a high school diploma or less.¹³

Poverty Rates for Families Headed by Single Females by Educational Attainment, Rhode Island, 2007



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2007. Table S1702.

◆ The poverty rate among families headed by single females is directly correlated with householder educational levels. In Rhode Island in 2007, the poverty rates for families headed by single females ranged from 48% for women with less than a high school diploma to 8% for those with a bachelor's degree or higher.¹⁴

Mother's Education Level

Table 5.

Births by Education Level of Mother, Rhode Island, 2003-2007

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	725	583	80%	63	9%	60	8%	7	1%
Bristol	967	488	50%	193	20%	214	22%	48	5%
Burrillville	776	285	37%	196	25%	213	27%	59	8%
Central Falls	2,027	183	9%	248	12%	777	38%	739	36%
Charlestown	387	199	51%	77	20%	81	21%	27	7%
Coventry	1,775	821	46%	353	20%	479	27%	101	6%
Cranston	4,407	2,026	46%	761	17%	1,141	26%	381	9%
Cumberland	1,826	1,037	57%	344	19%	337	18%	72	4%
East Greenwich	522	392	75%	57	11%	43	8%	15	3%
East Providence	2,638	957	36%	536	20%	784	30%	282	11%
Exeter	281	139	49%	48	17%	71	25%	15	5%
Foster	228	115	50%	37	16%	56	25%	15	7%
Glocester	410	209	51%	81	20%	95	23%	17	4%
Hopkinton	467	193	41%	101	22%	129	28%	36	8%
Jamestown	206	158	77%	22	11%	19	9%	2	1%
Johnston	1,395	582	42%	279	20%	407	29%	103	7%
Lincoln	935	493	53%	180	19%	191	20%	42	4%
Little Compton	143	89	62%	24	17%	26	18%	3	2%
Middletown	1,005	485	48%	201	20%	263	26%	37	4%
Narragansett	547	317	58%	101	18%	89	16%	20	4%
New Shoreham	52	23	44%	19	37%	9	17%	0	0%
Newport	1,540	668	43%	224	15%	333	22%	242	16%
North Kingstown	1,319	774	59%	200	15%	254	19%	58	4%
North Providence	1,650	684	41%	346	21%	454	28%	104	6%
North Smithfield	470	253	54%	91	19%	85	18%	25	5%
Pawtucket	5,715	1,298	23%	997	17%	1,996	35%	1,190	21%
Portsmouth	855	499	58%	144	17%	165	19%	28	3%
Providence	14,869	3,220	22%	1,885	13%	4,745	32%	4,357	29%
Richmond	483	271	56%	79	16%	95	20%	31	6%
Scituate	446	245	55%	88	20%	90	20%	15	3%
Smithfield	746	450	60%	130	17%	116	16%	28	4%
South Kingstown	1,214	756	62%	168	14%	205	17%	52	4%
Tiverton	660	317	48%	160	24%	141	21%	34	5%
Warren	546	229	42%	115	21%	140	26%	53	10%
Warwick	4,273	1,970	46%	815	19%	1,065	25%	320	7%
West Greenwich	256	140	55%	50	20%	52	20%	11	4%
West Warwick	2,019	605	30%	360	18%	716	35%	295	15%
Westerly	1,322	515	39%	266	20%	404	31%	123	9%
Woonsocket	3,301	474	14%	566	17%	1,322	40%	815	25%
Unknown	2	1	NA	0	NA	0	NA	0	NA
Core Cities	29,471	6,448	22%	4,280	15%	9,889	34%	7,638	26%
Remainder of State	33,934	16,694	49%	6,325	19%	7,973	23%	2,164	6%
Rhode Island	63,405	23,142	36%	10,605	17%	17,862	28%	9,802	15%

Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Rhode Island Department of Health, Division of Family Health, Maternal and Child Health Database, 2003-2007. Data for 2007 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 the number and percentage of births with unknown parental education levels are not included in this table. Between 2003 and 2007, maternal education levels were unknown for 1,993 births (3%).

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

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- ¹² *2004 KIDS COUNT data book: State profiles of child well-being*. (2004). Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation.
- ¹⁴ U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2007. 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.³ According to Census Bureau projections, by 2023 fewer than half of all children in the United States will be White, non-Hispanic.⁴

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 period.^{5,6}

In 2007 in Rhode Island, 74% of children under age 18 were White, 8% were Black or African American, 4% were Asian, 11% of children were 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 2007, 18% of children living in Rhode Island were Hispanic.⁷

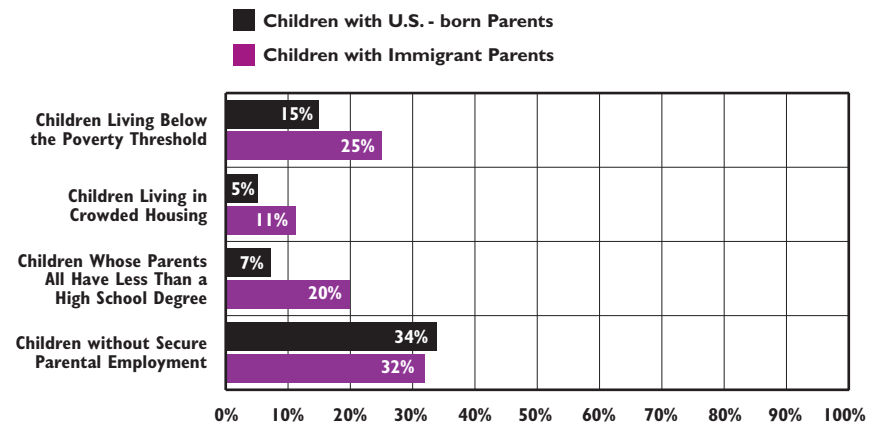
Minority children are highly concentrated in the six core cities in Rhode Island. Core cities are defined as those cities in which 15% or more of the children live in poverty. More than half (58%) of children living in the core cities are minority children. More than three-quarters (78%) of all minority children in Rhode Island live in these six communities.⁸

In 2007, there were 9,620 foreign-born children under age 18 living in Rhode Island, 31% of whom were naturalized U.S. citizens.⁹ Of Rhode Island's immigrant children, 24% were born in Central or South America, 19% were born in Asia, 17% were born in the Caribbean, 14% were born in Africa, 13% were born in Europe, and 10% were born in North America (Canada, Bermuda or Mexico).¹⁰

In 2007, 22% of children between the ages of five and 17 living in Rhode Island spoke a language other than English at home. Of these children, 92% spoke English well or very well.¹¹

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

Characteristics of Children Living in Families with U.S.-born and Immigrant Parents, Rhode Island, 2007



Source: Population Reference Bureau analysis of data from the 2007 American Community Survey.

◆ 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).¹³ Most immigrant families in Rhode Island are not new arrivals to the United States; 3% of parents in Rhode Island immigrant families arrived in this country fewer than five years ago.¹⁴ Eighty-seven percent of children in immigrant families in Rhode Island were born in the United States.¹⁵

◆ Fifteen percent of children in Rhode Island with U.S.-born parents are poor, compared with 25% of children with immigrant parents. Almost two-thirds (62%) of Rhode Island's poor children live in families with U.S.-born parents.¹⁶

◆ 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.¹⁷ Twenty-five percent of children in immigrant families in Rhode Island live in linguistically-isolated households.¹⁸

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
<i>Core Cities</i>	<i>30,302</i>	<i>39,071</i>	<i>10,921</i>	<i>847</i>	<i>3,944</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>2,174</i>	<i>4,645</i>	<i>91,945</i>
<i>Remainder of State</i>	<i>4,700</i>	<i>141,004</i>	<i>2,664</i>	<i>611</i>	<i>2,665</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>700</i>	<i>3,504</i>	<i>155,877</i>
<i>Rhode Island</i>	<i>35,002</i>	<i>180,075</i>	<i>13,585</i>	<i>1,458</i>	<i>6,609</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>2,874</i>	<i>8,149</i>	<i>247,822</i>

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.

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⁴ U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Population Projections*, Broadcast News Release, Thursday, August 14, 2008.

^{5,6,8} U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census 2000.

⁷ U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2007. Tables B01001, B01001A, B01001B, B01001D, B01001E, B01001G, & B01001I.

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¹² *Speaking for America's children: Child advocates identify children's issues and the 2002 state priorities*. (2002). Washington, DC: National Association of Child Advocates.

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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 and country of origin. Between 2000 and 2007, the percentage of children under age 18 who were minorities increased from 27% to 32%. The child population in Rhode Island is more racially and ethnically diverse than the adult population, a trend also seen nationally.^{1,2,3,4}

In 2007 in Rhode Island, 74% of children were White, 8% were Black, 4% were Asian, <1% were Native American, 11% identified as Some Other Race and 4% identified as Two or More Races. Eighteen percent of the Rhode Island child population was Hispanic in 2007.⁵

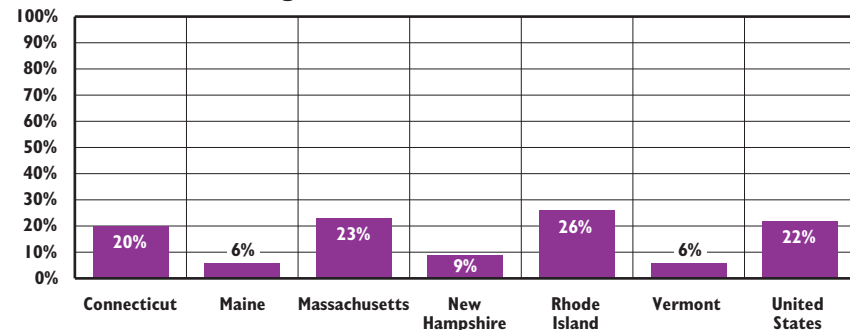
Diversity among children in Rhode Island is not evenly distributed by geographical location, with minority children concentrated in core urban communities that have the highest rates of child poverty in the state. In 2000, more than three-quarters (78%) of Rhode Island's minority children lived in one 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.⁶ In several high-poverty neighborhoods of Providence, minority children accounted for more than 90% of all children in 2000.⁷

Research demonstrates a significant relationship between residence in low-income or poor neighborhoods and increased teen pregnancy and high school dropout rates.⁸ In 2007, 17% of all Rhode Island children lived in poverty.⁹ In Rhode Island in 2007, 49% of all children living in poverty were White, 12% were Black, and 6% were Asian. Forty-three percent of all poor children in Rhode Island were Hispanic.¹⁰

Residential segregation between Whites and Blacks has decreased in the U.S. since the 1960s, but high levels of residential segregation still exist, particularly in urban areas. Hispanic and Asian residential segregation from Whites has been increasing in recent years.¹¹ School segregation remains a problem, as Black and Hispanic students in the U.S. are now more segregated than at any point in the past four decades.¹² The Providence-Fall River-Warwick metropolitan area was the second most segregated metropolitan area in the nation for Hispanics in 2000 and also was the metropolitan area with the largest increase in Hispanic segregation between 1980 and 2000.¹³

Percentage of Children Living in Immigrant Families, New England and the United States, 2007



Source: Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center. (n.d.). *Children in immigrant families: Percent: 2007*. Retrieved on February 27, 2009 from www.kidscount.org/datacenter

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 2007, 26% (60,110) of Rhode Island children were living in immigrant families, compared to the U.S. rate of 22%.^{14,15}
- ◆ In 2007, 4% (9,620) of Rhode Island's 234,821 children under age 18 were foreign-born, 31% of whom were naturalized citizens of the United States.¹⁶
- ◆ Three-quarters of children in Rhode Island immigrant families live in families with incomes above the federal poverty level.¹⁷ Almost one-third (31%) of children in Rhode Island's immigrant families have at least one parent with a college or graduate level education.¹⁸
- ◆ Of children in immigrant families, one-quarter live in poverty. Almost half (48%) of parents in immigrant families have low levels of education and one-quarter have limited English-language skills.^{19,20} 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	12%	42%	26%	29%	NA	17%
Births to Mothers with < 12 Years Education	14%	34%	23%	16%	31%	15%
% of Children with All Resident Parents in the Workforce	71%	48%	65%	54%	47%	68%
Median Family Income	\$76,329	\$37,608	\$44,246	\$61,547	\$30,606	\$70,187
Homeownership	68%	29%	36%	46%	29%	64%

Sources: *Children in Poverty* data are from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2007. Tables R1704, B17020A, B17020B, B17020C, B17020D & B17020I. *Maternal Education* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Health, Maternal and Child Health Database, 2003-2007. *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, 2007, Tables B19113, B19113A, B19113B, B19113C, B19113D & B19113I. *Homeownership* data are from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2007, 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 unavailable due to small population or sample sizes.

- ◆ In 2007, 17% of Rhode Island children under age 18 lived in families with incomes below the federal poverty level, an increase from 15% in 2006. In 2007, 42% of Hispanic children, 26% of Black children, and 29% of Asian children in Rhode Island lived in poor families, compared with 12% of White children.^{21,22}
- ◆ In 2007 in Rhode Island, one-third of Black, Hispanic and Native American households owned their homes, compared with approximately half of Asian households and two-thirds of White households.²³
- ◆ In 2000, 71% of White children in Rhode Island had one or both of their resident parents in the workforce, compared to 65% of Black children, 54% of Asian children, 48% of Hispanic children, and 47% of Native American children.²⁴
- ◆ 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.²⁵ Hispanic, Black and Native American children in Rhode Island are all more likely than White and Asian children to be born to mothers with less than a high school diploma.²⁶

Health Outcomes, by Race and Ethnicity, Rhode Island

	WHITE	HISPANIC	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	ALL RACES
Women with Delayed Prenatal Care	10.6%	16.3%	19.2%	21.1%	19.7%	12.1%
Preterm Births	11.5%	13.3%	14.8%	13.8%	17.2%	12.0%
Infants Born Low Birthweight	7.6%	8.3%	11.1%	9.6%	13.8%	8.1%
Infant Mortality (per 1,000 births)	5.5	8.3	12.1	6.6	11.4	6.3
Asthma Hospitalizations (per 1,000 children)	3.1	6.4	9.6	2.2	0.5	4.0
Births to Teens Ages 15 – 19 (per 1,000 teens)	30.2	100.1	80.2	30.1	125.0	31.1

Sources: All data are from the Rhode Island Department of Health, Division of Family Health, Maternal and Child Health Database 2003-2007 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, 2003-2007. For *Asthma Hospitalizations* the denominators are the child population under age 18 by race from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census 2000, SF1. For *Births to Teens* the denominators are the female populations ages 15-19 by race from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census 2000, SF3. NA indicates that the data are unavailable 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 infant health outcomes in Rhode Island. Minority women are more likely than White women to receive delayed or no prenatal care and to have preterm births. Minority children are more likely to die in infancy than White children. Native Americans are the most likely to give birth as teenagers, followed by Hispanic and then Black teens.²⁷
- ◆ Black and Hispanic children in Rhode Island are more likely to be hospitalized as a result of asthma than White, Asian and Native American children.²⁸ Nationally, Blacks and Native Americans are the most likely of all racial and ethnic groups to have asthma.²⁹
- ◆ In 2006 in the U.S., 7% of White non-Hispanic children under age 18 were not covered by health insurance, compared with 22% of Hispanic children, 14% of Black children and 11% of Asian children.³⁰ Nationally in 2006, Hispanic adults were the least likely of all racial and ethnic groups to have continuous health insurance coverage, even when a family member had full-time employment and after adjusting for income level.³¹

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 males ages 14-19)	2.7	13.7	32.5	7.4	8.5	6.1
Children of Incarcerated Parents (per 1,000 children)	8.6	21.1	83.5	2.9	8.9	14.0
Children in Out of Home Placement (per 1,000 children)	8.5	17.8	36.7	8.3	16.9	10.7

*Not comparable with previous Factbooks due to a change in methodology.

Sources: *Juveniles at the Training School* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, Rhode Island Training School, January 1, 2009 (includes only male adjudicated youth). *Children of Incarcerated Parents* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Corrections, September 30, 2008 and reflect the race of the incarcerated parent (includes only the sentenced population). *Children in Out-of-Home Placement* data are from the Department of Children, Youth and Families, RIC HIST Database, December 31, 2008. 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 male populations ages 14-19 by race from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, SF3.

◆ **Racial and ethnic minority youth continue to be disproportionately represented in juvenile justice systems in the U.S. Minority youth (especially non-Hispanic Black youth) are treated more harshly than White youth for the same type and severity of offenses at every critical point in the justice system, from detention to processing to incarceration in juvenile and adult correctional facilities.**³²

◆ **Minority children account for 55% of children in foster care despite making up only 33% of the total child population in the U.S. The greatest disparities exist for Black children who account for 15% of the U.S. child population and 38% of children in foster care. Research shows disparate treatment of minority children as they enter the foster care system and while they are in the system. Black, Hispanic and Native American families are more likely than non-Hispanic White families under similar circumstances to be reported for child abuse and neglect and to have their children removed.**³³

◆ **Disproportionality in child welfare and juvenile justice systems are in part a reflection of differential poverty rates between minority and White communities. However, while addressing poverty through federal, state and local policies would reduce child maltreatment and juvenile offending rates, policies that work directly to reduce racial and ethnic disparities are necessary as well.**³⁴

Education Outcomes, by Race and Ethnicity, Rhode Island

	WHITE	HISPANIC	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	ALL RACES
4th Grade Students Reading at or above Proficiency	76%	47%	54%	70%	44%	68%
8th Grade Students Reading at or above Proficiency	73%	40%	45%	72%	46%	65%
Students Attending Schools Making Insufficient Progress	16%	56%	50%	37%	30%	27%
High School Graduation Rates*	78%	62%	64%	74%	63%	74%
% of Adults over Age 25 with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher	31%	12%	17%	47%	NA	30%

*Not comparable with previous Factbooks due to a change in methodology.

Sources: All data are from the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 2007-2008 school year or the October 2008 NECAP (Reading Proficiency) unless otherwise noted. *Adult Educational Attainment* data are from the U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2007, Tables B15002, B15002A, B15002B, B15002C, B15002D & B15002I. All Census data refer only to those individuals who selected one race and Hispanics may also be included in any of the race categories. NA indicates that data are unavailable 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 and less likely to graduate from high school than White and Asian children.**³⁵ Black and Hispanic adults living in Rhode Island in 2007 were less likely to have a bachelor's degree than White or Asian adults.³⁶

◆ **Nationally, Black and Native American students are more likely than White and Hispanic students to receive special education services. Asians are the least likely to receive services for disabilities. Mental retardation and emotional disturbance rates are about twice as high among Black students as the national average. Disproportionality is most likely in categories that involve subjective diagnoses.**³⁷ In Rhode Island, over-representation of Black and Hispanic students occurs most often in the disability categories of learning disabilities, emotional disturbances and other health impairments.³⁸

◆ **According to the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, during the 2007-2008 school year Rhode Island's Hispanic and Black children were more than three times more likely to attend schools making insufficient progress than White children.**³⁹



Rhode Island's Hispanic Children

◆ In 2007, there were 42,382 Hispanic children under age 18 living in Rhode Island, up from 34,924 in 2000. Hispanic children made up 18% of Rhode Island's child population in 2007, compared with 14% in 2000.^{40,41}

◆ More than three-quarters (78%) of the Hispanic children in Rhode Island live in Central Falls, Pawtucket, and Providence.⁴² While Providence has the largest population of Hispanics overall, they are most densely concentrated in Central Falls.⁴³

Economics

◆ Forty-two percent of Hispanic children were living in poverty in 2007 in Rhode Island, compared to the national rate of 27%.⁴⁴ In 2000, Rhode Island Hispanics had the lowest median family income of all Hispanics in the U.S.⁴⁵ In 2007, the median family income for Hispanics was \$37,608, compared to \$70,187 overall in Rhode Island.⁴⁶

Health

◆ In Rhode Island between 2003 and 2007, 16% percent of Hispanic women who gave birth received delayed prenatal care, compared with 12% of all races. Hispanic female teens between the ages of 15 and 19 in Rhode Island have a birth rate that is more than three times as high as the state rate overall (100.1 per 1,000 teens ages 15-19 compared to 31.1 per 1,000).^{47,48}

Education

◆ Hispanics in Rhode Island have lower educational attainment levels than the population overall. In the 2007-2008 school year, the high school graduation rate for Hispanic youth was 62%, the lowest of any racial/ethnic group in the state and lower than the overall Rhode Island high school graduation rate of 74%.⁴⁹

◆ In 2007, 12% of Hispanics 25 years of age and older in Rhode Island held a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to 30% of all Rhode Islanders.⁵⁰ Hispanic immigrants in Rhode Island are more likely to have less than a high school education and also are more likely to have a college degree or higher than Hispanics born in the U.S.⁵¹

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