

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

According to the American Community Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, there were 1,053,209 Rhode Island residents in 2009. Children under age 18 made up 22% (226,763) of the Rhode Island population, a decrease of 9% from 2000.^{1,2} Between 2007 and 2009, there were 124,491 households with children under age 18 in Rhode Island, representing almost one-third (31%) of all households.³ Twenty-six percent of Rhode Island children were under age five, 27% were ages five to nine, 28% were ages 10 to 14, and 18% were ages 15 to 17.⁴

In Rhode Island between 2007 and 2009, 141,866 (62%) children under age 18 lived in a married-couple household with their parents, 68,360 (30%) children lived in a single-parent household, and 15,160 (7%) children lived with relatives, including grandparents and other relatives. A total of 3,528 (2%) children lived with a foster family or other non-relative head of household. There were 819 (less than

1%) children and youth under age 18 who lived in group quarters and 112 (less than 1%) youth who were householders, spouses or unmarried partners.⁵

Since 2000, the number of Rhode Island children under age 18 living in a two-parent household decreased by 9%, while the number of children under age 18 living with a grandparent or other relative increased by 15%. The number of children under age 18 living in single-parent households has increased by 2% since 2000.^{6,7}

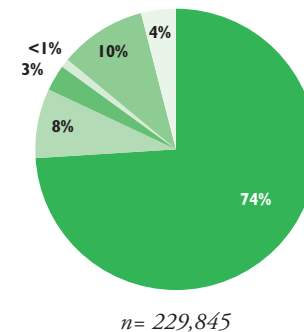
Rhode Island's children are diverse in race, ethnic background, language and country of origin. Between 2007 and 2009, there were 8,757 foreign-born children under age 18 living in Rhode Island, representing 4% of the child population.⁸ Of all Rhode Island children ages five to 17, 78% speak only English at home, 15% speak Spanish, 5% speak other Indo-European languages, 2% speak an Asian or other Pacific Island language and less than 1% speak some other language at home.⁹

Sexual identity is another important facet of diversity among youth. According to the *2009 Youth Risk Behavior Survey*, 6.4% 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 Children Under Age 18, 2007-2009

By Race/Ethnicity*

74%	White
8%	Black
3%	Asian
<1%	American Indian and Alaska Native
10%	Some Other Race
4%	Two or More Races

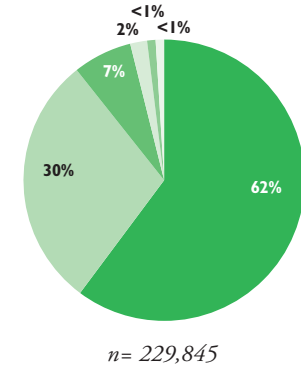


*Hispanic children may be included in any race category. Of Rhode Island's 229,845 children, 44,409 (19%) were Hispanic.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007-2009. B01001, C01001A, C01001B, C01001C, C01001D, C01001E, and C01001G.

By Family Structure

62%	Married Couple**
30%	Single Parent**
7%	Other Relatives
2%	Foster Family or Other Unrelated Household
<1%	Group Quarters
<1%	Child is Head of Household



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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007-2009. Tables B09001, B09002 and B09006.

◆ Between 2007 and 2009, 65% of children in Rhode Island lived in owner-occupied housing units and 35% lived in renter-occupied units.¹¹

◆ Of children ages three to 17 enrolled in school in Rhode Island between 2007 and 2009, 83% were enrolled in public schools and 17% were enrolled in private schools.¹²

◆ In 2009, 5% 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. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009. Table S0201: Rhode Island Selected Population Profile.
- ² U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1. Table DP-1: Rhode Island Profile of General Demographic Characteristics.
- ³ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007-2009. Table S1101: Rhode Island Households and Families.
- ⁴ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007-2009. Table B01001.
- ^{5,6} U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007-2009. Tables B09001, B09002 & B09006.
- ⁷ U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Supplementary Survey. Table P013.
- ⁸ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007-2009. Table B05003.
- ⁹ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007-2009. Table B16007.
- ¹⁰ Rhode Island Department of Health, *2009 Youth Risk Behavior Survey*.
- ^{11,12} U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007-2009. Table S0901: Rhode Island Children Characteristics.
- ¹³ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009. Table S0901: Rhode Island Children Characteristics.