

## Family and Community

### *Ring Around the World*

by Annette Wynne

Ring around the world  
Taking hands together  
All across the temperate  
And the torrid weather.  
Past the royal palm-trees  
By the ocean sand  
Make a ring around the world  
Taking each other's hand;  
In the valleys, on the hill,  
Over the prairie spaces,  
There's a ring around the world  
Made of children's friendly faces.



# 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.<sup>1,2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup>

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.<sup>5</sup>

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.<sup>6,7</sup>

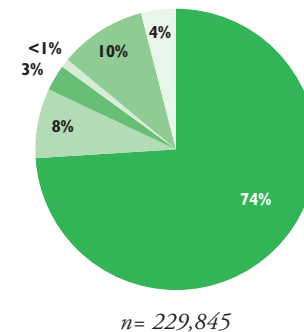
Rhode Island's children are diverse in race, ethnic background, language and country of origin. Between 2007 and 2009, there were 8,757 foreign-born children under age 18 living in Rhode Island, representing 4% of the child population.<sup>8</sup> Of all Rhode Island children ages five to 17, 78% speak 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.<sup>9</sup>

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.<sup>10</sup>

## 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

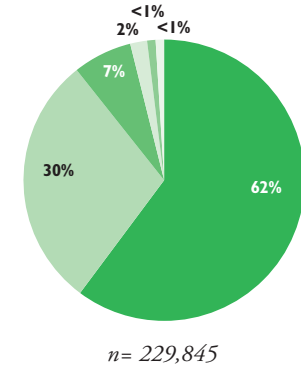


\*Hispanic children may be included in any race category. Of Rhode Island's 229,845 children, 44,409 (19%) were Hispanic.

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.<sup>11</sup>

◆ 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.<sup>12</sup>

◆ 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.<sup>13</sup>

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

- <sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009. Table S0201: Rhode Island Selected Population Profile.
- <sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1. Table DP-1: Rhode Island Profile of General Demographic Characteristics.
- <sup>3</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007-2009. Table S1101: Rhode Island Households and Families.
- <sup>4</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007-2009. Table B01001.
- <sup>5,6</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007-2009. Tables B09001, B09002 & B09006.
- <sup>7</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Supplementary Survey. Table P013.
- <sup>8</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007-2009. Table B05003.
- <sup>9</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007-2009. Table B16007.
- <sup>10</sup> Rhode Island Department of Health, *2009 Youth Risk Behavior Survey*.
- <sup>11,12</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007-2009. Table S0901: Rhode Island Children Characteristics.
- <sup>13</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009. 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 210,226 children living with one or more of their parents in Rhode Island between 2007 and 2009. Of these, 33% (68,360) were living with an unmarried parent, an increase from 27% of children in 2000.<sup>1,2</sup>

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

Between 2007 and 2009 in Rhode Island, 79% of children living in poverty were living in single-parent families. Children in single-parent families in Rhode Island were nearly eight times more likely to be living in poverty than those in married-couple

families. Between 2007 and 2009 in Rhode Island, 39% of children in single-parent households lived in poverty, compared to 5% of children in married-couple households.<sup>4</sup>

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 and low levels of social and emotional well-being. As adults, they earn less income and are more likely to have non-marital births (among daughters), be depressed, have discordant marriages and get divorced. Parenting quality is a good predictor of children's well-being, regardless of whether they grow up with one or two parents.<sup>5</sup>

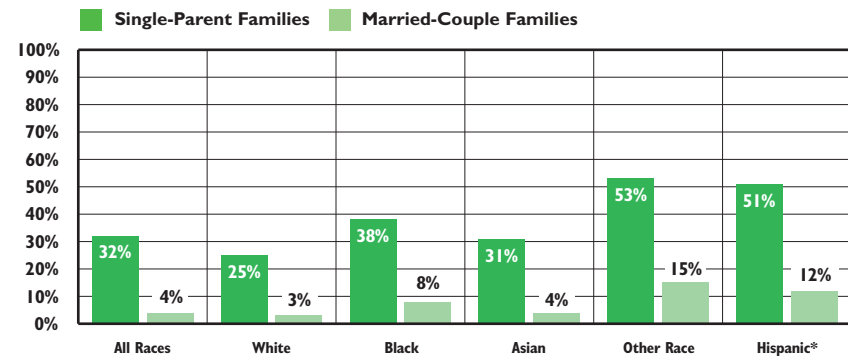
Single-Parent Families		
	2000	2009
RI	32%	36%
US	31%	34%
National Rank*		38th
New England Rank**		6th

\*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 2009*. Retrieved January 24, 2011, from www.kidscount.org/data center

## Families With Children Under Age 18 and Income Below the Poverty Threshold by Race & Ethnicity, Rhode Island, 2007-2009



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007-2009. Tables B17010, B17010A, B17010B, C17010D, C17010F, B17010I. \*Hispanics may be in any race category.

◆ Hispanic single-parent families in Rhode Island are twice as likely as White single-parent families to live in poverty. Hispanic, Other race and Black married-couple families are more likely than White and Asian married-couple families in Rhode Island to live in poverty.<sup>6</sup>

## Economic Well-Being and Family Structure

◆ Economic status during early childhood can have a profound effect on children's health and development. Stable family structure is strongly correlated with economic well-being. Married-parent families have the highest economic status, followed by cohabiting-parent families and then by single-parent families. Entering marriages or cohabiting relationships (especially with the child's biological father) is associated with increased economic status. Divorces and exits from cohabiting relationships are associated with declines in economic well-being.<sup>7</sup>

◆ Approximately one-third (35%) of unmarried parenting couples still live together five years after the child's birth and less than half of them are married at that time.<sup>8</sup>

◆ Twenty-eight percent of unmarried women who gave birth in the U.S. between June 2007 and June 2008 lived with a cohabiting partner. This was the first time the U.S. Census Bureau reported on births to women in cohabitating relationships.<sup>9</sup>

# 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 also may include others not related to the householder.

## 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

- U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007-2009. Table B09002.
- U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Supplementary Survey Summary Tables. Table P013.
- 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.
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- Amato, P. R. (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.
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- Meadows, S. O., McLanahan, S. S. & Knab, J. T. (2009). *Economic trajectories in non-traditional families with children* (WP09-10-FF). Santa Monica, CA: RAND Labor and Population.
- Fragile families and child wellbeing study: Fact sheet*. Retrieved January 24, 2011, from [www.fragilefamilies.princeton.edu](http://www.fragilefamilies.princeton.edu)
- U.S. Census Bureau. *Census Bureau reports nearly 1 in 3 unmarried women who give birth cohabit* (Press release). Retrieved November 4, 2010, from [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

# Grandparents Caring for Grandchildren

## DEFINITION

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

## SIGNIFICANCE

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.<sup>1</sup>

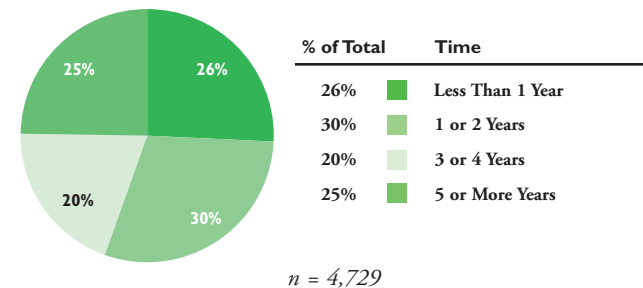
Grandparents living on a fixed income may be at greater risk of poverty after they become financially responsible for their grandchildren.<sup>2</sup> Eighteen percent of grandparent caregivers live below the poverty line compared to 8% of the population age 50 and over.<sup>3</sup>

Compared to non-relative foster parents, relative caregivers, such as grandparents, receive less monitoring and support from child welfare agencies. Relative caregivers are more likely to have lower incomes and have more children in the home.<sup>4</sup> Grandparent caregivers in particular may have limited legal and economic resources, and most have informal custody arrangements and are not involved with a child welfare agency.<sup>5</sup>

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 about programs such as cash assistance and Medicaid or because grandparents may feel that there is stigma attached to receiving assistance.<sup>6,7</sup> Nearly all children in kinship care are eligible for child-only Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) payments (cash assistance) regardless of their household's income level, yet children in informal custody arrangements are much less likely to receive these payments.<sup>8</sup> Nationally, 30% of relative caregivers receive TANF or other public financial assistance.<sup>9</sup> Some grandparents and relative caregivers who apply for these funds may be mistakenly denied benefits.<sup>10</sup>

Grandparent caregivers are at risk for poor physical and mental health.<sup>11</sup> They may face legal barriers when enrolling children in school and/or when seeking health insurance or medical care for the children.<sup>12</sup> Many children in relative care do not obtain permanent status such as adoption or guardianship, often because their caregivers do not want to pursue the required legal process in order to avoid strain on family relationships.<sup>13</sup> Grandparents make up the largest percentage of relative caregivers, but other relative caregivers (including aunts, uncles, cousins and siblings) may face similar obstacles.<sup>14</sup>

**Rhode Island Grandparents Financially Responsible for Their Grandchildren, by Length of Time Responsible, 2007-2009**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007-2009. Table B10050.

◆ Between 2007 and 2009, 45% of the 4,729 Rhode Island grandparents who were financially responsible for their grandchildren had been responsible for the children for three or more years.<sup>15</sup> During this period, there were a total of 11,426 children living in households headed by grandparents, though not all grandparents were financially responsible for their grandchildren. An additional 3,734 children lived in households headed by other relatives. Approximately 7% of all children living in Rhode Island lived in a household headed by a relative other than a parent.<sup>16</sup>

◆ Children in informal kinship care (i.e., placed with relatives without the involvement of a child welfare agency) are twice as likely to live in poverty as children living with their parents. Nationally, nearly one-third (31%) of children in private kinship care live in poverty, and 17% have no health insurance.<sup>17</sup>

◆ Rhode Island regulations state that the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) must give priority to relatives when placing a child in out-of-home care. On December 31, 2010 in Rhode Island, there were 591 children under age 19 in DCYF care who were in out-of-home placements with a grandparent or other relative. These children made up 27% of all children in out-of-home placements in Rhode Island.<sup>18</sup>

◆ The federal *Fostering Connection to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act*, which became law in 2008, helps children and youth in foster care establish permanent families through subsidized guardianship and adoption. Rhode Island was the first state to be granted approval for the new kinship-guardianship assistance program to enable children in the care of grandparents and other relatives to exit foster care into permanency.<sup>19,20</sup>

# 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%
Burrillville	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%
Narragansett	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

- <sup>1,2,12,13</sup> Children's Defense Fund. (2006). *Kinship care resource kit*. Retrieved December 8, 2009, from www.cdf.org
- <sup>3</sup> Livingston, G. & Parker, K. (September 9, 2010). *Since the start of the Great Recession, more children raised by grandparents*. Retrieved January 28, 2010, from pewsocialtrends.org
- <sup>4,5</sup> Hinterlong, J. & Ryan, S. (2008). Creating grander families: Older adults adopting younger kin and nonkin. *The Gerontologist*, 48(4), 527-536.
- <sup>6</sup> American Association of Retired Persons. (2007). *Public benefits programs*. Retrieved December 14, 2009, from www.aarp.org
- <sup>7,8,10,17</sup> Main, R., Macomber, J. E. & Geen, R. (2006). *Trends in service receipt: Children in kinship care gaining ground*. New Federalism: National Survey of America's Families, Series B, No.B-68. Washington, DC: The Urban Institute.
- <sup>9</sup> Conway, T. & Hutson, R. Q. (2007). *Is kinship care good for kids?* Retrieved February 11, 2011, from www.clasp.org
- <sup>11</sup> Hughes, M. E., Waite, L. J., LaPierre, T. A. & Luo, Y. (2007). All in the family: The impact of caring for grandchildren on grandparents' health. *Journal of Gerontology: SOCIAL SCIENCES*, 62B(2), S108-S119.
- <sup>14,16</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007-2009. Table B09006.
- <sup>15</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007-2009. Table B10050.
- <sup>18</sup> Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, Rhode Island Children's Information System (RICHIST), December 31, 2010.
- <sup>19</sup> Child Welfare League of America. (August 3, 2009). Rhode Island approved for kinship guardianship option, more pending. *Children's Monitor Online: A public policy update from CWLA*, 22(29).
- <sup>20</sup> Generations United. (2009). *GrandFacts: Data, interpretation, and implications for caregivers*. Washington, DC: Generations United.

# 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.<sup>1</sup>

Most children facing these three economic and social risk factors at birth continue to face great challenges throughout childhood. Teen mothers often have difficulty completing high school, are likely to remain unmarried and a majority will remain persistently low-income.<sup>2,3</sup> 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.<sup>4,5</sup>

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.<sup>6</sup> Healthy brain development depends on attentive, nurturing caregiving in infancy.<sup>7</sup> 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.<sup>8</sup>

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.<sup>9</sup> 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.<sup>10</sup> 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.<sup>11</sup>

## Infants Born With Identified Risk Factors, Rhode Island, 2010

	# OF BIRTHS	# BORN AT RISK*	# BORN AT HIGHEST RISK**
Central Falls	349	314 (90%)	21 (6%)
Newport	266	169 (64%)	11 (4%)
Pawtucket	934	675 (72%)	55 (6%)
Providence	2,680	2,089 (78%)	191 (7%)
West Warwick	372	236 (63%)	18 (5%)
Woonsocket	556	424 (76%)	57 (10%)
<b>Core Cities</b>	<b>5,157</b>	<b>3,907 (76%)</b>	<b>353 (7%)</b>
<b>Remainder of State</b>	<b>5,682</b>	<b>2,937(52%)</b>	<b>115 (2%)</b>
<b>Rhode Island</b>	<b>10,839</b>	<b>6,844 (63%)</b>	<b>468 (4%)</b>

\* Births that are identified as "risk positive" by the Rhode Island Department of Health's Newborn Risk Assessment Program. These numbers cannot be compared to data in previous Factbooks. See note on page 15.

\*\* Births to mothers who were under age 20, single and without a high school diploma.

Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, KIDSNET Database, 2010.

◆ 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 diploma.<sup>12</sup> Studies show that effective interventions targeting this population can improve child and family outcomes and yield a strong return on investment.<sup>13</sup> In 2010 in Rhode Island, 468 (4%) babies were born to unmarried teen mothers without high school diplomas.<sup>14</sup>

## Nurse-Family Partnership

◆ The Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) program is an evidence-based home visiting model that has been replicated in 28 states. Nurses conduct a series of home visits with low-income, first-time mothers, starting during pregnancy and continuing through the child's second birthday.<sup>15</sup>

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

# Infants Born at Highest Risk

Table 4.

## Infants Born at Highest Risk, Rhode Island, 2010

CITY/TOWN	TOTAL # OF BIRTHS	BIRTHS TO MOTHERS WITHOUT A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA	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	101	1	14	4	0	0%
Bristol	178	10	63	8	2	1%
Burrillville	114	5	40	3	1	1%
Central Falls	349	125	264	54	21	6%
Charlestown	51	1	17	2	0	0%
Coventry	277	17	77	8	4	1%
Cranston	796	75	310	52	24	3%
Cumberland	294	11	78	15	4	1%
East Greenwich	94	2	21	4	2	2%
East Providence	516	42	207	33	13	3%
Exeter	64	7	20	4	3	5%
Foster	23	1	5	1	1	4%
Glocester	59	3	17	3	0	0%
Hopkinton	85	4	26	2	1	1%
Jamestown	17	1	5	1	1	6%
Johnston	234	22	93	16	7	3%
Lincoln	164	11	48	6	4	2%
Little Compton	15	0	3	0	0	0%
Middletown	158	9	52	5	3	2%
Narragansett	79	4	27	3	2	3%
New Shoreham	14	1	2	0	0	0%
Newport	266	36	131	22	11	4%
North Kingstown	204	8	67	7	1	0%
North Providence	289	16	118	14	5	2%
North Smithfield	79	3	25	2	1	1%
Pawtucket	934	189	572	90	55	6%
Portsmouth	120	1	27	3	1	1%
Providence	2,680	714	1,678	328	191	7%
Richmond	75	4	15	1	1	1%
Scituate	48	1	12	2	1	2%
Smithfield	113	0	21	2	0	0%
South Kingstown	185	12	58	5	4	2%
Tiverton	85	4	30	6	2	2%
Warren	91	10	33	6	4	4%
Warwick	803	60	260	34	14	2%
West Greenwich	54	2	10	1	0	0%
West Warwick	372	64	180	35	18	5%
Westerly	203	17	86	15	9	4%
Woonsocket	556	136	362	88	57	10%
<i>Core Cities</i>	<i>5,157</i>	<i>1,264</i>	<i>3,187</i>	<i>617</i>	<i>353</i>	<i>7%</i>
<i>Remainder of State</i>	<i>5,682</i>	<i>365</i>	<i>1,887</i>	<i>268</i>	<i>115</i>	<i>2%</i>
<i>Rhode Island</i>	<i>10,839</i>	<i>1,629</i>	<i>5,074</i>	<i>885</i>	<i>468</i>	<i>4%</i>

### Source of Data for Table/Methodology

The Rhode Island Department of Health, KIDSNET Database, 2010. 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 for chart on page 14: "Risk positive" births are infants born with *any one of the following risk factors*: developmental disabilities and certain other established conditions, birth weights less than 1500 grams (3.3 lbs), neonatal intensive care hospitalization greater than 48 hours, or mother is Hepatitis B surface antigen positive; **Or** infants born with *any two of the following risk factors*: caregiver's education less than 11th grade, mother's age less than 19, mother's age greater than 37, single caregiver, mother's number of live births greater than 5, no previous live birth to mother, parental characteristic indicating vulnerability (e.g. chronic illness), inadequate prenatal care, low birth weight for gestational age, low Apgar scores at birth, or low-income family (indicated by use of Medicaid/Rite Care health insurance).

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

### References

- <sup>1,3,12</sup> *Linking teen pregnancy prevention to other critical social issues.* (2008). Washington, DC: The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.
- <sup>2</sup> *Teen pregnancy, poverty, and income disparity.* (2008). Washington, DC: The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.
- <sup>4</sup> 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.
- <sup>5</sup> *Teen pregnancy and overall child well-being.* (2008). Washington, DC: The National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy.
- <sup>6</sup> 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 161)

# Mother's Education Level

## DEFINITION

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

## SIGNIFICANCE

Parental educational attainment can have an impact on many aspects of child well-being, including children's health and health-related behaviors, the level of education children will ultimately achieve, and their access to material, human and social resources. Children of parents with low levels of education are less likely to succeed in school and more likely to live in poverty and have poor health.<sup>12</sup>

There is a strong correlation between maternal education attainment and infant mortality. Nationally, and in Rhode Island, infant mortality rates increase as mother's education levels decrease.<sup>3,4</sup> In Rhode Island, the mortality rate of infants born to mothers with less than a high school diploma was 7.3 per 1,000 live births, compared to 4.4 per 1,000 live births for infants born to mothers with a bachelor's degree or higher.<sup>5</sup>

Children of more highly educated parents have greater academic skills at school entry than other children and outperform their peers in later grades. Increasing maternal education can improve children's school readiness, academic and language skills.<sup>6</sup> Increases in maternal education levels also have been associated with improvements in health and future earnings.<sup>7,8</sup>

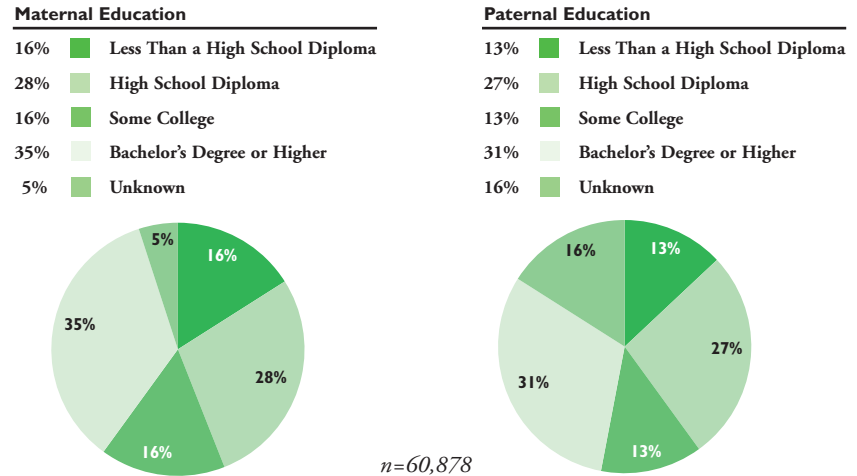
One of the best ways parents can raise their families' incomes is through higher education.<sup>9</sup> Women with bachelor's degrees in Rhode Island earn more than twice as much as those with less than a high school diploma.<sup>10</sup> Between 2005 and 2009, 16% of Rhode Island births were to mothers with less than a high school diploma and 35% were to mothers with a bachelor's degree or higher.<sup>11</sup> Educational attainment levels vary widely across Rhode Island.<sup>12</sup>

## Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma

City/Town	% of Births
Central Falls	36%
Newport	13%
Pawtucket	21%
Providence	30%
West Warwick	14%
Woonsocket	24%
All Core Cities	26%
Remainder of State	7%
Rhode Island	16%

Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Hospital Discharge Database, 2005-2009.

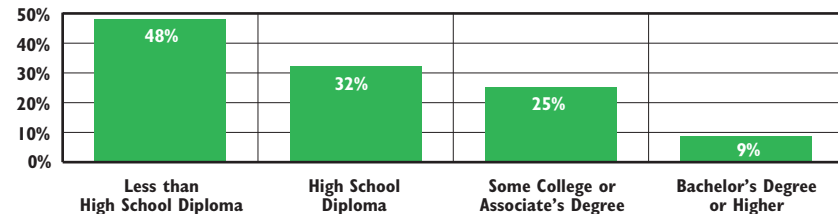
## Births by Parental Education Levels, Rhode Island, 2005-2009



Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, 2005-2009. Data for 2009 are provisional.

◆ In Rhode Island between 2005 and 2009, 44% of all infants were born to mothers with a high school diploma or less, and 40% were born to fathers with a high school diploma or less.<sup>13</sup>

## Poverty Rates for Families Headed by Single Females by Educational Attainment, Rhode Island, 2007-2009



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007-2009. Table S1702.

◆ The poverty rate among families headed by single females is directly correlated with the householder's education level. In Rhode Island between 2007 and 2009, 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.<sup>14</sup>

Table 5.

**Births by Education Level of Mother, Rhode Island, 2005-2009**

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	621	484	78%	63	10%	52	8%	6	1%
Bristol	885	439	50%	168	19%	196	22%	46	5%
Burrillville	739	274	37%	170	23%	210	28%	51	7%
Central Falls	1,965	148	8%	216	11%	755	38%	713	36%
Charlestown	340	178	52%	60	18%	78	23%	16	5%
Coventry	1,630	708	43%	348	21%	410	25%	119	7%
Cranston	4,208	1,829	43%	751	18%	1,093	26%	375	9%
Cumberland	1,721	981	57%	289	17%	315	18%	78	5%
East Greenwich	511	377	74%	54	11%	49	10%	12	2%
East Providence	2,600	947	36%	502	19%	759	29%	266	10%
Exeter	257	126	49%	46	18%	59	23%	17	7%
Foster	214	98	46%	39	18%	54	25%	14	7%
Glocester	403	204	51%	69	17%	95	24%	22	5%
Hopkinton	437	184	42%	82	19%	128	29%	32	7%
Jamestown	162	125	77%	17	10%	15	9%	1	1%
Johnston	1,373	538	39%	289	21%	405	29%	102	7%
Lincoln	924	465	50%	174	19%	183	20%	50	5%
Little Compton	123	80	65%	20	16%	18	15%	3	2%
Middletown	958	442	46%	196	20%	247	26%	41	4%
Narragansett	473	276	58%	83	18%	73	15%	21	4%
New Shoreham	49	23	47%	14	29%	9	18%	2	4%
Newport	1,485	674	45%	198	13%	323	22%	190	13%
North Kingstown	1,208	679	56%	179	15%	236	20%	62	5%
North Providence	1,588	631	40%	327	21%	438	28%	115	7%
North Smithfield	442	254	57%	77	17%	75	17%	26	6%
Pawtucket	5,535	1,196	22%	965	17%	1,872	34%	1,176	21%
Portsmouth	745	448	60%	126	17%	127	17%	18	2%
Providence	14,524	2,988	21%	1,814	12%	4,488	31%	4,410	30%
Richmond	429	230	54%	70	16%	85	20%	34	8%
Scituate	366	202	55%	69	19%	75	20%	10	3%
Smithfield	705	415	59%	119	17%	122	17%	24	3%
South Kingstown	1,125	706	63%	152	14%	180	16%	53	5%
Tiverton	609	282	46%	147	24%	131	22%	36	6%
Warren	526	224	43%	94	18%	141	27%	53	10%
Warwick	4,113	1,837	45%	791	19%	980	24%	328	8%
West Greenwich	245	116	47%	64	26%	48	20%	10	4%
West Warwick	2,006	592	30%	346	17%	701	35%	285	14%
Westerly	1,297	479	37%	279	22%	399	31%	119	9%
Woonsocket	3,332	483	14%	564	17%	1,281	38%	809	24%
Unknown	5	2	NA	1	NA	1	NA	0	NA
Core Cities	28,847	6,081	21%	4,103	14%	9,420	33%	7,583	26%
Remainder of State	32,026	15,281	48%	5,928	19%	7,485	23%	2,162	7%
Rhode Island	60,878	21,364	35%	10,032	16%	16,906	28%	9,745	16%

**Source of Data for Table/Methodology**

Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, Hospital Discharge Database, 2005-2009. Data for 2009 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 2005 and 2009, maternal education levels were unknown for 2,831 births (5%).

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

**References**

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<sup>29</sup> National Center for Children in Poverty. (2007). *Parents' low education leads to low income, despite full-time employment*. Retrieved January 19, 2010, from www.nccp.org

<sup>35</sup> Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Commission to Build a Healthier America. (2008). *America's health starts with healthy children: How do states compare?* Retrieved January 3, 2011, from www.commissiononhealth.org

<sup>4</sup> Gakidou, E., Cowling, K., Lozano, R. & Murray, C. J. L. (2010). Increased educational attainment and its effect on child mortality in 175 countries between 1970 and 2009: A systemic analysis [Abstract]. *The Lancet*, 376(9745), 959-974.

<sup>6</sup> Magnuson, K. A., Sexton, H. R., Davis-Kean, P. E. & Huston, A. C. (2009). Increases in maternal education and young children's language skills. *Merrill-Palmer Quarterly: Journal of Developmental Psychology*, 55(3), 319-350.

<sup>8</sup> Nichols, A. & Favreault, M. (2009). *A detailed picture of intergenerational transmission of human capital*. Washington, DC: The Urban Institute.

<sup>10</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007-2009. Table B20004.

<sup>11,12,13</sup> Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, 2005-2009. Data for 2009 are provisional.

<sup>14</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007-2009. Table S1702.

# Racial and Ethnic Diversity

## DEFINITION

*Racial and ethnic diversity* is the percentage of children under age 18 by racial and ethnic categories as defined by the 2000 U.S. Census. Racial and ethnic categories are chosen by the head of household or person completing the Census form.

## SIGNIFICANCE

Racial and ethnic diversity has increased in the United States over the last several decades and is projected to rise in the future.<sup>1</sup> Minority children (all those except White, non-Hispanic children) accounted for 98% of the growth in the U.S. child population during the 1990s.<sup>2</sup> In 2009, 55% of all U.S. children were White non-Hispanic.<sup>3</sup> According to Census Bureau projections, the U.S. is becoming more racially and ethnically diverse. By 2030, more than half of all children in the United States will be children of color.<sup>4</sup>

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 about 37,000 in 1990 to about 68,000 in 2000. The number of White non-Hispanic children dropped by nearly 9,000 during the same period.<sup>5,6</sup>

Between 2007 and 2009 in Rhode Island, 74% of children under age 18 were White, 8% were Black or African American, 3% were Asian, less than 1%

were Native American, 10% of children were identified as Some other race and 4% as Two or more races. Between 2007 and 2009, 19% of children living in Rhode Island were Hispanic.<sup>7</sup>

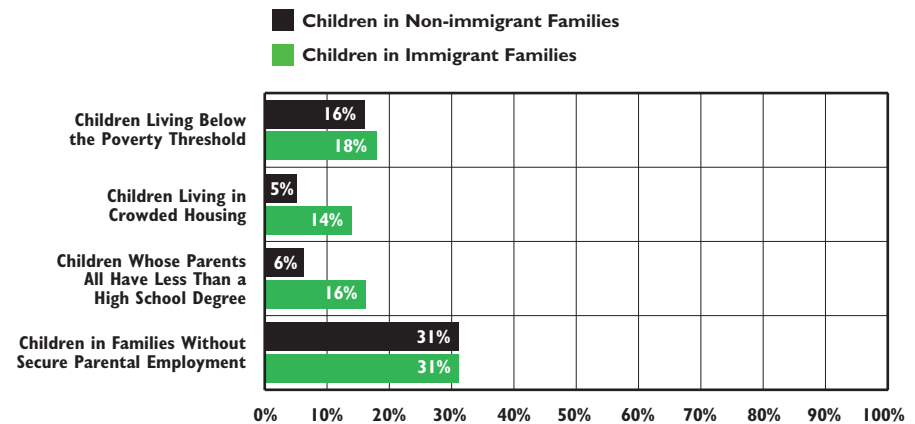
Minority children are concentrated in the Rhode Island's six core cities. Core cities are defined as cities in which 15% or more of the children live in poverty. More than half (58%) of children living in the core cities are minority children. More than three-quarters (78%) of all minority children in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

Between 2007 and 2009, there were 8,757 foreign-born children living in Rhode Island, 29% of whom were naturalized U.S. citizens.<sup>9</sup> Of Rhode Island's immigrant children, 29% were born in Central or South America, 22% were born in the Caribbean, 15% were born in Africa, 18% were born in Asia, 9% were born in Europe, and 6% were born in North America (Canada, Bermuda or Mexico).<sup>10</sup>

Between 2007 and 2009, 22% of children between the ages of five and 17 living in Rhode Island spoke a language other than English at home, 93% of whom spoke English well or very well.<sup>11</sup>

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.<sup>12</sup>

## Characteristics of Children Living in Immigrant and Non-immigrant Families, Rhode Island, 2009



Source: The Annie E. Casey Foundation KIDS COUNT Data Center. Retrieved January 24, 2011, from [www.kidscount.org/datacenter](http://www.kidscount.org/datacenter).

◆ **Twenty-four 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), similar to the U.S. rate of 23%.<sup>13</sup> Most immigrant families in Rhode Island are not new arrivals to the United States; 1% of children in Rhode Island immigrant families have parents who arrived in this country fewer than five years ago.<sup>14</sup> Ninety-seven percent of children in Rhode Island were born in the United States.<sup>15</sup>**

◆ **Sixteen percent of children in Rhode Island in non-immigrant families are poor, compared with 18% of children in immigrant families.<sup>16</sup> More than two-thirds (69%) of Rhode Island's poor children live in families with U.S.-born parents.<sup>17</sup>**

◆ **The social and economic well-being of immigrant children is influenced by their parents' proficiency in English. Limited English proficiency can be a barrier to employment opportunities, higher earnings, access to health care and parental engagement in schools.<sup>18</sup> Twenty-one percent of children in immigrant families in Rhode Island live in linguistically-isolated households, meaning no one over age 14 either speaks only English or speaks English "very well."<sup>19</sup>**

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

**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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<sup>9</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates, 2007-2009. Table B05003.

<sup>10</sup> Population Reference Bureau analysis of 2007-2009 American Community Survey PUMS data.

<sup>11</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates, 2007-2009. Table B16004.

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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 racial and ethnic background. Between 2007 and 2009 in Rhode Island, 74% of children under age 18 were White, 8% were Black or African American, 3% were Asian, less than 1% were Native American, 10% of children were identified as Some other race, and 4% as Two or more races. Between 2007 and 2009, 19% of children living in Rhode Island were Hispanic.<sup>1</sup>

Children who live in poverty, especially those who experience poverty in early childhood and for extended periods of time, are more likely to have health, behavioral, educational and social problems.<sup>2,3</sup> Between 2007 and 2009, 17% of all Rhode Island children lived in poverty, 64% of whom were minorities.<sup>4</sup>

Black and Hispanic children are more likely than White children to live in neighborhoods that lack the resources needed for them to grow up healthy and successful, regardless of family income levels.<sup>5</sup> 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. In several high-poverty neighborhoods of Providence, minority children accounted for more than 90% of all children in 2000.<sup>6,7</sup>

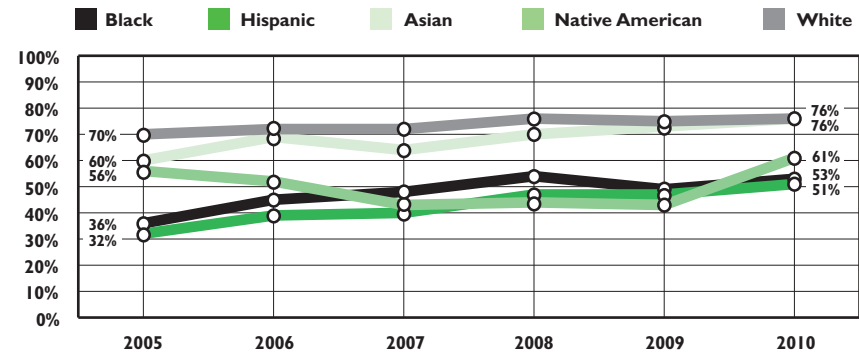
Residential segregation between Whites and Blacks has decreased in the U.S. since the 1960s, but high levels of residential segregation still exist, particularly in urban areas. Hispanic and Asian residential segregation from Whites has been increasing in recent years.<sup>8</sup> The Providence-New Bedford-Fall River metropolitan area was the fourth most segregated metropolitan area in the nation for Hispanics between 2005 and 2009.<sup>9</sup>

Even in good economic climates, minority families are less likely to be employed, have higher poverty rates and receive lower wages than White families. Minority families also face greater negative impacts during economic recessions and their recovery from economic downturns is slower than that of White families. Even when controlling for educational achievement, age and gender, minority workers have consistently higher unemployment rates than White workers.<sup>10,11</sup>

## Residential Segregation and Its Impact on Education

- ◆ As a result of significant residential segregation in the U.S., Black and Hispanic students are now more segregated from White students than at any point in the past four decades.<sup>12</sup> As a result, White students generally attend schools that are disproportionately White and low-poverty, while Black and Hispanic students attend schools that are disproportionately minority and high-poverty.<sup>13</sup>
- ◆ Most urban communities have high concentrations of poverty, which can be related to unequal educational opportunities. School district boundaries often determine access to challenging curricula, academic expectations, educator quality, facilities quality, adequacy of school funding, access to instructional supports (like technology) and school safety.<sup>14,15</sup>

## Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Fourth Grade Reading Proficiency Rates, Rhode Island, 2005-2010



Source: Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, *New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP)*, 2005-2010.

- ◆ Between 2005 and 2010, the percentage of Rhode Island fourth-graders reading proficiently increased among all racial and ethnic groups.<sup>16</sup>
- ◆ Minority students have lower rates of reading proficiency by fourth grade and are much less likely to graduate from high school, go to college and graduate from college than their White peers. Poverty has been shown to drive much of the difference in these outcomes due to a combination of school factors (rigor of curriculum, teacher quality, family involvement) and non-school factors (health status, family stress, access to out-of-school learning opportunities).<sup>17,18,19,20,21,22,23</sup>

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

	WHITE	HISPANIC	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	ALL RACES
<b>Children in Poverty</b>	12%	38%	30%	17%	30%	17%
<b>Births to Mothers With &lt;12 Years Education</b>	14%	35%	22%	14%	31%	16%
<b>% of Children With All Resident Parents in the Workforce</b>	71%	48%	65%	54%	47%	68%
<b>Median Family Income</b>	\$77,093	\$35,635	\$41,469	\$66,175	\$31,235	\$70,835
<b>Homeownership</b>	67%	30%	36%	50%	28%	63%

Sources: *Children in Poverty* data are from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007-2009. Tables B17001, B17020A, B17020B, B17020C, B17020D & B17020I. *Maternal Education* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, Maternal and Child Health Database, 2005-2009. *Parental Labor Force Participation* data are from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Tables P46, PCT70A, PCT70B, PCT70C, PCT70D & PCT70H. *Median Family Income* data are from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007-2009, Tables B19113, B19113A, B19113B, B19113C, B19113D & B19113I. *Homeownership* data are from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007-2009, Tables B25003, B25003A, B25003B, B25003C, B25003D & B25003I. Hispanics also may be included in any of the race categories. All Census data refer only to those individuals who selected one race.

- ◆ Between 2007 and 2009 in Rhode Island, 17% of all children, 38% of Hispanic children, 30% of Native American children, 30% of Black children, 17% of Asian children and 12% of White children in Rhode Island lived in families with incomes below the federal poverty level.<sup>24</sup>
- ◆ Between 2007 and 2009 in Rhode Island, White households were the most likely to own their homes whereas Native American and Hispanic households were the most likely to live in rental units.<sup>25</sup>
- ◆ 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.<sup>26</sup>
- ◆ Education is essential for economic success. Adults with less than a high school diploma are at particular risk of living in poverty and other negative outcomes.<sup>27</sup> 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.<sup>28</sup>

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

	WHITE	HISPANIC	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	ALL RACES
<b>Women With Delayed Prenatal Care</b>	13.1%	20.0%	22.5%	24.5%	22.6%	14.9%
<b>Preterm Births</b>	11.3%	13.2%	14.8%	13.0%	17.1%	11.8%
<b>Low Birthweight Infants</b>	7.4%	8.1%	10.6%	9.0%	13.6%	8.0%
<b>Infant Mortality (per 1,000 births)</b>	5.5	7.7	12.8	10.5	10.5	6.3
<b>Asthma Hospitalizations (per 1,000 children)</b>	1.3	3.4	5.7	1.1	NA	1.9
<b>Births to Teens Ages 15 – 19 (per 1,000 teens)</b>	26.8	102.5	74.9	24.4	96.3	30.3

Sources: All data are from the Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, Maternal and Child Health Database, 2005-2009 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, 2005-2009 and refer only to hospitalizations due to primary diagnoses of asthma. For *Asthma Hospitalizations* the denominators are the child population under age 18 by race from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, SF1. For *Births to Teens* the denominators are the female populations ages 15-19 by race from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, SF3. For all indicators other than *Asthma Hospitalizations*, Hispanics also may be included in any of the race categories. NA indicates that the rate was not calculated because the number was too small to calculate a reliable rate.

- ◆ 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. Hispanics are the most likely to give birth as teenagers, followed by Native American and Black teens.<sup>29</sup>
- ◆ 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.<sup>30</sup> Nationally, Blacks and Native Americans are the most likely of all racial and ethnic groups to have asthma.<sup>31</sup>
- ◆ Approximately one in ten children in the U.S. does not have health insurance coverage. White non-Hispanic children are much more likely to be insured (93%) than Hispanic children (80%) and Black children (88%). Only two-thirds of citizen children with non-citizen parents have health insurance. Approximately two-thirds of uninsured children in the U.S. are eligible for but not enrolled in public health insurance programs.<sup>32</sup>

# Racial and Ethnic Disparities

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

	WHITE	HISPANIC	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	ALL RACES
<b>Juveniles at the Training School*</b> (per 1,000 males ages 14-19)	1.7	10.3	19.4	2.7	0	4.0
<b>Children of Incarcerated Parents</b> (per 1,000 children)	7.8	18.1	72.4	3.5	15.8	12.5
<b>Children in Out-of-Home Placement</b> (per 1,000 children)	7.3	16.1	28.7	5.9	8.7	9.2

Sources: *Juveniles at the Training School* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, Rhode Island Training School, January 1, 2011 (\*includes only male adjudicated youth). *Children of Incarcerated Parents* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Corrections, September 30, 2010 and reflect the race of the incarcerated parent (includes only the sentenced population). *Children in Out-of-Home Placement* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, RICHIST Database, December 31, 2010. 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 the U.S. juvenile justice system. Minority youth (especially non-Hispanic Black youth) are treated more harshly than White youth for the same type and severity of offenses, including detention, processing, and incarceration in juvenile and adult correctional facilities.<sup>33</sup> Rhode Island's juvenile justice system has some of the widest residential placement disparities between White and minority youth in the nation.<sup>34</sup>**

◆ **Black and Hispanic children in Rhode Island are more likely than their Native American, White and Asian peers to be placed out-of-home through the child welfare system.<sup>35</sup> Nationally, minority children experience disparate treatment as they enter the foster care system and while they are in the system. Black, Hispanic and Native American children are more likely than non-Hispanic White children under similar circumstances to be placed in foster care, remain in placements for longer times, have less contact with child welfare staff and to have lower reunification rates.<sup>36</sup>**

◆ **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 policies would reduce child maltreatment and juvenile offending rates, policies that work directly to reduce disparities are necessary as well.<sup>37</sup>**

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

	WHITE	HISPANIC	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	ALL RACES
<b>4th Grade Students Reading at or Above Proficiency</b>	76%	51%	53%	76%	61%	69%
<b>4th Grade Students at or Above Proficiency in Mathematics</b>	71%	46%	44%	73%	47%	63%
<b>Students Attending Schools Making Insufficient Progress</b>	11%	41%	36%	25%	18%	20%
<b>High School Graduation Rates</b>	79%	66%	67%	81%	61%	76%
<b>% of Adults Over Age 25 With a Bachelor's Degree or Higher</b>	32%	12%	19%	47%	4%	30%

Sources: All data are from the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 2009-2010 school year or the October 2010 NECAP (Reading Proficiency) unless otherwise noted. *Adult Educational Attainment* data are from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2007-2009, Tables C15002, C15002A, C15002B, C15002C, C15002D & C15002I. All Census data refer only to those individuals who selected one race and Hispanics also may be included in any of the race categories

◆ **In Rhode Island, Hispanic, Black and Native American children are less likely to be proficient in reading and mathematics in fourth grade than White and Asian children.<sup>38</sup> Native American, Hispanic and Black adults living in Rhode Island are less likely to have a bachelor's degree than White or Asian adults.<sup>39</sup>**

◆ **Nationally, Black, Hispanic and Native American students are more likely than White students to be disciplined in school. Because schools tend to rely on disciplinary practices (such as out-of-school suspension and expulsion) that exclude students from school, the disproportionate use of these disciplinary practices may contribute to racial and ethnic gaps in school achievement.<sup>40</sup> In Rhode Island during the 2009-2010 school year, minority students received 48% of all disciplinary actions, although they made up only 32% of the student population.<sup>41</sup>**

◆ **According to the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, during the 2009-2010 school year, Rhode Island's Hispanic and Black children were more than three times as likely as White children to attend schools making insufficient progress.<sup>42</sup>**

## Rhode Island's Hispanic Children and Youth

◆ In 2009, there were 45,268 Hispanic children under age 18 living in Rhode Island, up from 35,326 in 2000. Hispanic children made up 20% of Rhode Island's child population in 2009, compared with 14% in 2000.<sup>43</sup>

◆ In 2000, more than three-quarters (78%) of the Hispanic children in Rhode Island lived in Central Falls, Pawtucket and Providence.<sup>44</sup> While Providence has the largest Hispanic population overall, they are most densely concentrated in Central Falls.<sup>45</sup>

### Economics

◆ Thirty-five percent of Rhode Island's Hispanic children were living in poverty in 2009, compared to the national rate of 31%.<sup>46</sup> The median family income for Hispanics in Rhode Island is \$35,635, compared to \$70,835 overall in Rhode Island.<sup>47</sup>

### Health

◆ In Rhode Island between 2005 and 2009, 20.0% percent of Hispanic babies were born to women who received delayed or no prenatal care, compared with 14.9% of all babies in the state.<sup>48</sup>

◆ Hispanic female teens between the ages of 15 and 19 in Rhode Island have a birth rate that is more than three times higher than the overall teen birth rate in Rhode Island (102.5 per 1,000 Hispanic teens ages 15 to 19 compared to 30.3 per 1,000 for all teens ages 15 to 19).<sup>49,50</sup>

### Education

◆ The high school graduation rate among Hispanic youth in the class of 2010 was 66%, lower than the overall Rhode Island high school graduation rate of 76%.<sup>51</sup>

◆ Hispanic immigrants in Rhode Island are less likely to have a high school diploma but more likely to have a college degree or higher than U.S.-born Hispanics.<sup>52</sup>

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