

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 2000, the number of family households with children under age 18 in Rhode Island was 124,867, comprising almost a third (31%) of all Rhode Island households.¹ According to the decennial census of April 2000, there were 1,048,319 Rhode Island residents. Of these, 24% or 247,822 were children under age 18.

The number of U.S. children recorded by Census 2000 was the largest in history at 72.3 million.² This represents a substantial increase in the child population over the decade of the 1990s. Children now make up 26% of the U.S. population.³

In general, children in Rhode Island at the start of the 21st century are older and more ethnically diverse than those children living in the state in the previous decade. The largest increase in any age category between 1990 and 2000 was in the number of children in early adolescence (ages 10 to 14). The number of Rhode Island children between the ages of 10 and 14 increased

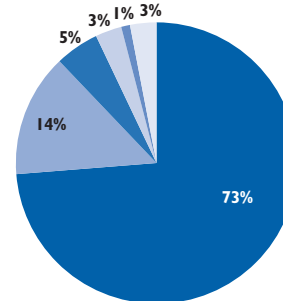
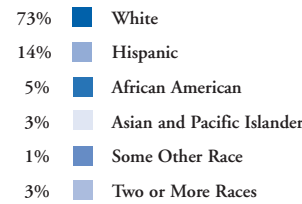
by 20% in the decade, increasing from 59,406 to 71,370.⁴ In contrast, the number of children under age 5 living in Rhode Island dropped by nearly 5%, decreasing from 66,969 in 1990 to 63,896 in 2000.⁵

Rhode Island's children are diverse in race, ethnic background, language, and country of origin. Children under age 18 are significantly more diverse in racial and ethnic backgrounds than the adult population. Nationally, and in Rhode Island, the increase in the child population was led by minority children.⁶ In Rhode Island, the number of White, non-Hispanic children declined over the decade of the 1990s by nearly 9,000 children, while the number of minority children increased by 31,000 to nearly 68,000.⁷

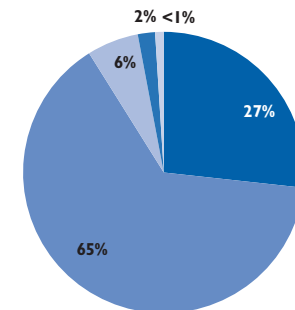
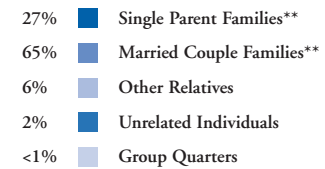
Many of Rhode Island's children speak languages other than English and may face language barriers. In 2000, 4,372 children ages 5 to 17 spoke English less than "well," while 11,484 lived in a linguistically-isolated household, meaning that no one in the household over the age of 13 speaks English "very well." According to the 2000 Census, 23,615 Rhode Island children spoke Spanish at home.⁸

Rhode Island's Children, 2000

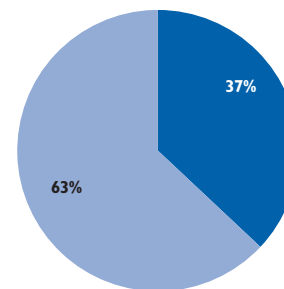
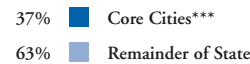
By Race/Ethnicity*



By Family Structure



By Residence



n = 247,822

*Hispanics are not included in any other racial group. Two or more races was not possible as a selection in the 1990 census.

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

***According to Census 2000, there are now six core cities in Rhode Island, i.e., communities in which 15% or more of the children live in families with income below the federal poverty level. There are 91,945 children who live in one of the six core cities: Central Falls, Newport, Pawtucket, Providence, West Warwick and Woonsocket.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

Child Population, Rhode Island, 1990 and 2000

Table 1.

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%
Core Cities	82,434	91,945	9,511	12%
Remainder of State	143,256	155,877	12,621	9%
Rhode Island	225,690	247,822	22,132	10%

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 for Indicator

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

^{2,6,7} O'Hare, W. (June 2001). *The Child Population: First Data from the 2000 Census*. Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation and The Population Reference Bureau.

³ *America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being 2003*. (2003). Washington, DC: Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics.

^{4,5} U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census of Population and Census 2000.

⁸ U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census 2000, Summary File 3 and Summary File 4.