



Immigrants in Rhode Island

- There are 119,277 immigrants living in Rhode Island. The most common countries of birth are Portugal, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, and Other West African countries.ⁱ The most common countries of birth for immigrants in the U.S. are: Mexico, China, the Philippines, India, and Vietnam (U.S. Census, 2000).
- Places in Rhode Island with the largest immigrant populations include Providence (43,947), Pawtucket (17,036), East Providence (7,769), Cranston (7,159), and Central Falls (6,645) (U.S. Census, 2000).

Child economic well-being by immigrant status

Twenty-one percent of children in Rhode Island live in immigrant families and 34 percent of all low-income children in Rhode Island live in immigrant families. Among children living in immigrant families in Rhode Island, 21 percent live below the poverty level and 43 percent are in low-income families (Annie E. Casey Foundation, 2002-2004; National Center for Children in Poverty, 2003-2005).ⁱⁱ

Children in:

	Immigrant families	U.S.-born families
Living below the poverty line	21%	17%
Living in low-income families ⁱⁱⁱ	43%	30%
Living without secure parental employment	32%	36%
Children with all available parents in the labor force	64%	70%
Children whose parents have less than a high school degree	24%	8%
Children in families where parents spend more than 30 percent of income on housing	42%	35%

Source: Annie E. Casey Foundation Online State Database

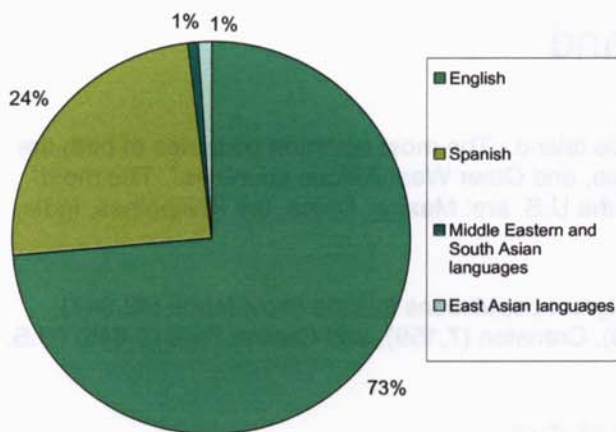
Language

Non-English Languages Spoken in the Home in Rhode Island				
	Number	Percent of Non-English languages spoken at home	Percent of Total Population	Percent within group who speak English less than "well"
Total	196,625	100.00%	19.96%	20.7%
Spanish or Spanish Creole	79,440	40.40%	8.06%	29.2%
Portuguese or Portuguese Creole	37,440	19.04%	3.80%	21.0%
French (incl. Patois, Cajun)	19,385	9.86%	1.97%	6.9%
Italian	13,760	7.00%	1.40%	9.7%
Mon-Khmer, Cambodian	5,585	2.84%	0.57%	27.1%

Note: Data includes persons age 5 and older

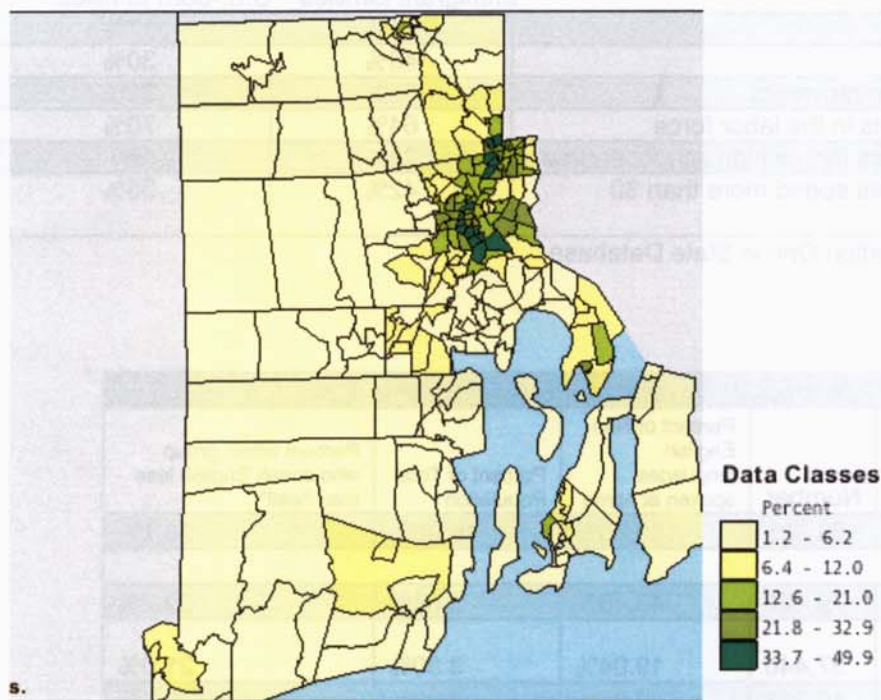
Source: U.S. Census, 2000

Primary home language for children enrolled in Head Start and Early Head Start



Note: Numbers do not add up to 100% due to rounding
 Source: 2004 Head Start PIR data

Percentage of Persons Born Outside the U.S. in Rhode Island



Source: U.S. Census, 2000

ⁱ The U.S. Census collapses the following countries into the category “Other West African countries”: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, St. Helena, and Togo.
ⁱⁱ Children of immigrants or children in immigrant families are defined as those with at least one parent born outside the U.S.
ⁱⁱⁱ Low-income families are those earning incomes below 200% of the poverty threshold.