

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 2004, the number of family households with children under age 18 in Rhode Island was 127,112, representing almost a third (31%) of all households.¹ According to the 2004 American Community Survey conducted by the Census Bureau, there were 1,037,002 Rhode Island residents.² In 2004, the population of children under age 18 was 243,667 and represented 23% of the state's total population, down from 24% of the population in 2000.³

Children in Rhode Island are older and more ethnically diverse than in 2000. The largest increase in any age category in Rhode Island between 2000 and 2004 was children ages 15-17.^{4,5} The number of children ages 15-17 increased 7% from 40,240 to 43,076 children.^{6,7} The number of children ages 10-14 increased 2% from 74,367 to 76,167 children.^{8,9}

In contrast, the number of younger children living in Rhode Island

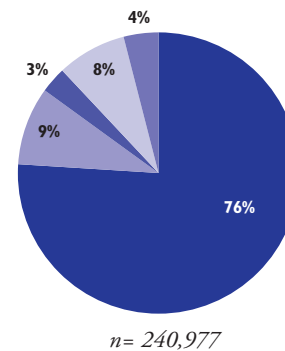
declined. Between 2000 and 2004, the number of children under age 5 decreased 4%, from 63,418 to 60,849 and children ages 5-9 decreased 6%, from 67,852 to 63,575.^{10,11} The U.S. Census Bureau projects that children under age 18 as a percentage of Rhode Island's total population will decrease from 24% in 2000 to 22% in 2030.¹²

Rhode Island's children are diverse in race, ethnic background, language and country of origin. In Rhode Island between 2000 and 2004, the largest increase in the population ages birth to 19 was led by minority children.^{13,14} Between 2000 and 2004, the number of Black or African American children increased 38%, Hispanic or Latino children increased 13%, Asian children increased 7%, and White, non-Hispanic children decreased 7%.^{15,16} In 2004, there were 9,437 foreign born children under age 18 living in Rhode Island, representing 4% of the child population.¹⁷ Eighty-two percent of children ages 5-17 speak only English, 11% of children sometimes or always speak Spanish, 4% speak other Indo-European languages and 2% speak an Asian or other Pacific Island language at home.¹⁸

Rhode Island's Children Under Age 18, 2004

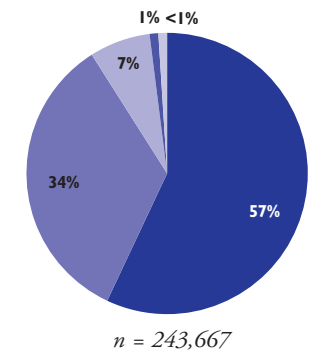
By Race*

76%	White
9%	Black
3%	Asian
8%	Some Other Race
4%	Two or More Races



By Family Structure

57%	Married Couple**
34%	Single Parent**
7%	Other Relatives
1%	Unrelated Individuals
<1%	Non-family Household



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2004. Tables B01001B, B01001D, B01001E, B01001G, B01001H, B01001I & B09003.

* Hispanic children may be included in any race category. Of Rhode Island's 240,977 children, 40,612 (17%) are Hispanic.

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

The number of children reported by race varies from the statewide total as some racial categories are too small to report in the sample size.

◆ In 2004 in Rhode Island, 138,796 (57%) children under age 18 lived in a married couple household, 82,272 (34%) children lived in a single parent household, and 17,244 (7%) children lived with relatives, including married and single parent grandparents or other relatives.¹⁹ In 2004, 3,347 (1%) children lived in a house where the child was not related to the head of the household, such as children in foster care. An additional 1,795 (<1%) children lived in a non-family household.²⁰

◆ In Rhode Island, between 2000 and 2004, the number of children under age 18 living in single parent households increased 23% from 67,026 to 82,272.^{21,22} The number of children living with a grandparent or other relative decreased 3% from 17,827 to 17,244 children and the number of children living in a two-parent household decreased 11% from 156,288 to 138,796.^{23,24}

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%
<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, 2004. General Demographic Characteristics: 2004.
- ^{2,3,4,6,8,10} U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2004. Table B01001.
- ^{5,7,9,11} U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2000. Table P004.
- ¹² U.S. Bureau of the Census, Population Division, Interim State Population Projections, 2005. Table 5.
- ^{13,15} U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2004. Tables B01001B, B01001D, B01001E, B01001F, B01001G, B01001H & B01001I.
- ^{14,16} U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2000. Tables P005K, P005B, P005J, P005D, P005F & P005G.
- ¹⁷ U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2004. Table B05003.
- ¹⁸ U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2004.
- ^{19,20,21,23} U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2004. Table B09003.
- ^{22,24} U.S. Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, 2000. Table P013.