



2000 U.S. CENSUS BRIEF

LARGE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF RHODE ISLAND CHILDREN

A major finding of Census 2000 is the overall increase in the number of children under age 18 in Rhode Island and nationally. The increase in children nationally, measured in both number and percentage, is one of the largest in history, second only to the baby boom decade. This significant increase puts greater demand on all agencies that deal with children, from school systems to child protective services. Information on the changes in child population is essential to policymakers and service providers as they plan new ways to meet the needs of children, families, and communities effectively.

Overall, Rhode Island is younger now than it was in 1990. Led by a major increase in the state's Latino children, Rhode Island's child population increased

Table 1: Child Population, Core Cities and Rhode Island, 1990 and 2000

	1990		2000		1990 - 2000
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	PERCENT CHANGE
Central Falls	4,810	27%	5,531	29%	15%
Newport	5,756	20%	5,199	20%	-10%
Pawtucket	16,719	23%	18,151	25%	9%
Providence	37,972	24%	45,277	26%	19%
Woonsocket	10,617	24%	11,155	26%	5%
Remainder of State	149,816	22%	162,509	23%	9%
Rhode Island	225,690	23%	247,822	24%	10%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Redistricting Data, and 1990 Census.

10% during the last decade. As of April 2000, there were 247,822 children under the age of 18 in Rhode Island, up from 225,690 in 1990. The increase of 22,132 children is one of the largest in Rhode Island's history.

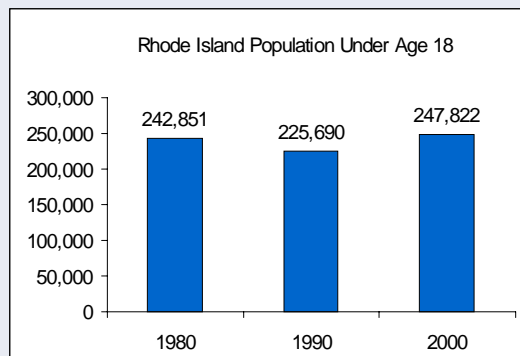
The change in the population under 18 varied widely among towns in Rhode Island. Some towns had significant increases in the percent of

their population under 18. The largest increase was in West Greenwich where the child population increased by 58% to 1,444. Lincoln and South Kingstown also had significant increases of 33% and 32% respectively.

Although the child population increased in most Rhode Island towns, some locations had decreases. Both Burrillville and Newport had reductions of 10% in the number of residents under 18. Middletown had a decrease as well, with a decline of 7%.

The population tends to be younger in the core cities than in the rest of the state. In the core cities, 26% of the population is under 18. In comparison, 23% of the population is under 18 in the rest of the state. The increase in the percentage of the population under 18 between 1990 and 2000 was also greater in the core cities (12%) than the rest of the state (9%).

Figure 1: Rhode Island Child Population, 1980-2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Redistricting Data, and RI Statewide Planning.

The U.S. Census Bureau conducts a census of the population every ten years. The most recent was completed in April 2000. This series of reports highlights information most relevant for community leaders, policy makers, advocates, and others concerned with the status of children and families in Rhode Island. Additional information on child well-being and Census 2000 can be found on the Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Web site at www.rikidscount.org.

RHODE ISLAND CHILD POPULATION BY CITY/TOWN: 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 (1990 - 2000)
Barrington	3,912	4,745	833	21.3%
Bristol	4,380	4,399	19	0.4%
Burrillville	4,479	4,043	-436	-9.7%
Central Falls	4,810	5,531	721	15.0%
Charlestown	1,575	1,712	137	8.7%
Coventry	7,626	8,389	763	10.0%
Cranston	14,673	17,098	2,425	16.5%
Cumberland	6,427	7,690	1,263	19.7%
East Greenwich	2,913	3,564	651	22.3%
East Providence	10,657	10,546	-111	-1.0%
Exeter	1,521	1,589	68	4.5%
Foster	1,185	1,105	-80	-6.8%
Glocester	2,526	2,664	138	5.5%
Hopkinton	1,839	2,011	172	9.4%
Jamestown	1,123	1,238	115	10.2%
Johnston	5,332	5,906	574	10.8%
Lincoln	3,890	5,157	1,267	32.6%
Little Compton	750	780	30	4.0%
Middletown	4,676	4,328	-348	-7.4%
Narragansett	2,869	2,833	-36	-1.3%
New Shoreham	163	185	22	13.5%
Newport	5,756	5,199	-557	-9.7%
North Kingstown	6,076	6,848	772	12.7%
North Providence	5,655	5,936	281	5.0%
North Smithfield	2,332	2,379	47	2.0%
Pawtucket	16,719	18,151	1,432	8.6%
Portsmouth	4,175	4,329	154	3.7%
Providence	37,972	45,277	7,305	19.2%
Richmond	1,565	2,014	449	28.7%
Scituate	2,426	2,635	209	8.6%
Smithfield	3,898	4,019	121	3.1%
South Kingstown	4,770	6,284	1,514	31.7%
Tiverton	3,166	3,367	201	6.3%
Warren	2,452	2,454	2	—
Warwick	18,322	18,780	458	2.5%
West Greenwich	915	1,444	529	57.8%
West Warwick	6,560	6,632	72	1.1%
Westerly	4,988	5,406	418	8.4%
Woonsocket	10,617	11,155	538	5.1%
Core Cities*	75,874	85,313	9,439	12.4%
Remainder of State	149,816	162,509	12,693	8.5%
Rhode Island	225,690	247,822	22,132	9.8%

*Providence, Pawtucket, Woonsocket, Newport, and Central Falls

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Redistricting Data, and 1990 Census.