

MORE EARLY ADOLESCENTS AND FEWER YOUNG CHILDREN IN RHODE ISLAND

In Rhode Island, and the nation as a whole, the overall population under age 18 increased in the last decade. Although the total number of children and youth increased, the rate of increase varied significantly across lines of race, ethnicity, residency and age. Information on the numbers of children in each age group is an important tool for policy makers, community leaders, and service providers when making decisions on where specific programs should be located and to whom they should be targeted.

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.

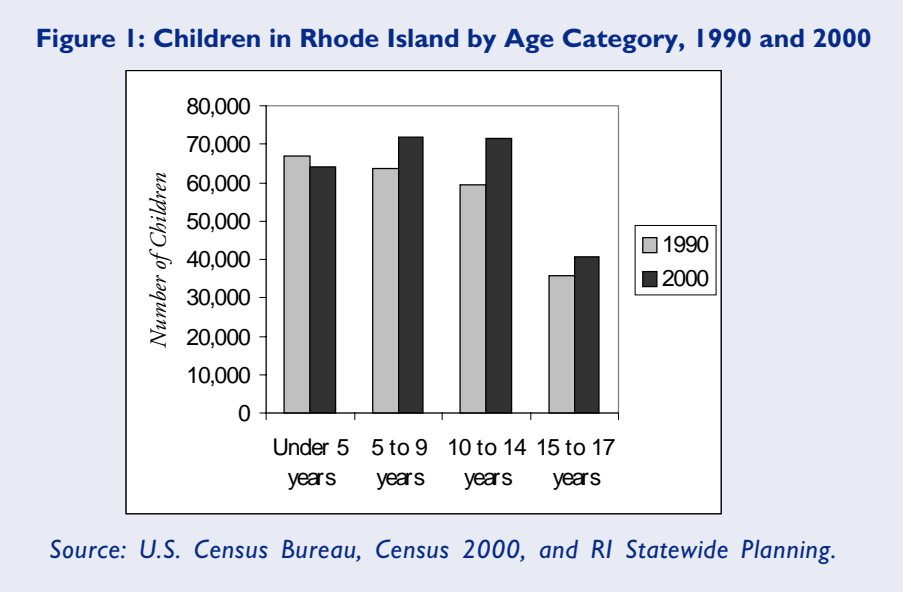
The largest increase in any age category was in the number of children in early adolescence (ages 10 to 14). The number of Rhode Island children between the ages of 10 and 14 increased by 20% in the decade, increasing from 59,406 to 71,370. In contrast, the number of children under age 5 living in Rhode Island dropped nearly 5%, decreasing from 66,969 in 1990 to 63,896 in 2000.

Although most of Rhode Island's cities and towns have similar age patterns for children as the state as a whole, there are a few that differ significantly in the make up of their child population. The percentage of children under age 5 varies from

Table I: Children in Rhode Island by Age Category, 1990 and 2000

Age	1990		2000		Change 1990 – 2000	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Under 5 years	66,969	30%	63,896	26%	-3,073	-5%
5 to 9 years	63,731	28%	71,905	29%	8,174	13%
10 to 14 years	59,406	26%	71,370	29%	11,964	20%
15 to 17 years	35,584	16%	40,651	16%	5,067	14%
Total under age 18	225,690	100%	247,822	100%	22,132	10%

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



slightly under 18% of all children in Jamestown to a high of 34% in New Shoreham and approximately 30% in Central Falls.

Jamestown has the highest percentage of children in the 10 to 14 years age bracket with 35% of all children under 18 in this category. This compares to New Shoreham with only 22% of its

children in the 10 to 14 years age group.

Children tend to be slightly younger in the core cities than in the rest of the state. Fifty-eight percent (58%) of the children living in the core cities are under age 10. This compares to 53% of the children in the remainder of the state under age 10.

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 AGE GROUP: CENSUS 2000

CITY/TOWN	UNDER AGE 5	AGES 5 TO 9	AGES 10 TO 14	AGES 15 TO 17	TOTAL POPULATION UNDER AGE 18
Barrington	996	1,414	1,498	837	4,745
Bristol	1,166	1,233	1,258	742	4,399
Burrillville	886	1,106	1,271	780	4,043
Central Falls	1,644	1,613	1,439	835	5,531
Charlestown	447	487	498	280	1,712
Coventry	2,142	2,436	2,483	1,328	8,389
Cranston	4,180	4,965	4,984	2,969	17,098
Cumberland	1,971	2,207	2,257	1,255	7,690
East Greenwich	755	1,109	1,098	602	3,564
East Providence	2,625	3,004	3,061	1,856	10,546
Exeter	345	475	484	285	1,589
Foster	212	338	367	188	1,105
Glocester	586	750	841	487	2,664
Hopkinton	487	579	593	352	2,011
Jamestown	222	366	433	217	1,238
Johnston	1,534	1,773	1,701	898	5,906
Lincoln	1,151	1,496	1,630	880	5,157
Little Compton	176	219	250	135	780
Middletown	1,210	1,344	1,163	611	4,328
Narragansett	670	811	821	531	2,833
New Shoreham	63	53	41	28	185
Newport	1,526	1,465	1,412	796	5,199
North Kingstown	1,804	1,994	1,917	1,133	6,848
North Providence	1,453	1,649	1,828	1,006	5,936
North Smithfield	565	687	702	425	2,379
Pawtucket	4,918	5,376	5,060	2,797	18,151
Portsmouth	1,042	1,296	1,268	723	4,329
Providence	12,607	13,463	12,290	6,917	45,277
Richmond	553	552	594	315	2,014
Scituate	621	750	781	483	2,635
Smithfield	880	1,125	1,282	732	4,019
South Kingstown	1,473	1,772	1,942	1,097	6,284
Tiverton	782	967	1,042	576	3,367
Warren	567	715	747	425	2,454
Warwick	4,640	5,222	5,670	3,248	18,780
West Greenwich	356	399	443	246	1,444
West Warwick	1,936	1,865	1,809	1,022	6,632
Westerly	1,418	1,564	1,511	913	5,406
Woonsocket	3,287	3,266	2,901	1,701	11,155
Core Cities*	23,982	25,183	23,102	13,046	85,313
Remainder of State	39,914	46,722	48,268	27,605	162,509
Rhode Island	63,896	71,905	71,370	40,651	247,822

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

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Rhode Island Demographic Profile.