

NUMBER OF CHILDREN LIVING IN SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES CONTINUES TO RISE

According to household demographic information from Census 2000, more Rhode Island children live in single-parent families and fewer in married-couple households than ever before. Following the national trend, more Rhode Island children are growing up in single-parent households than at any time since the census began collecting information on household living arrangements.

As of April 1, 2000, there were 408,424 households in the state. 124,867 (30.6%) of these households were family households with children under age eighteen. Most of the 247,822 children in Rhode Island live in family households (92.2%). The remainder of the state's children live with other relatives (5.9%), with other unrelated individuals (1.5%), or in group quarters including juvenile detention facilities, hospitals and group homes (less than 1%).

Of all Rhode Island children living with at least one biological or adoptive parent, 70% lived in married-couple families in 2000, down

from 88% in 1970. Of the 67,978 children who lived in single-parent families in 2000, 83% lived in a household headed by a single mother, and 17% lived in a household headed by a single father.

Rhode Island has one of the highest rates of single-parent families in the country and the highest rate among New England states. Children living in single-parent families are at increased risk of living in poverty compared to children living in two-parent families. In 1998, 44% of Rhode Island's single-parent families with children were living below the poverty level, as compared to 3% of two-parent families with children.

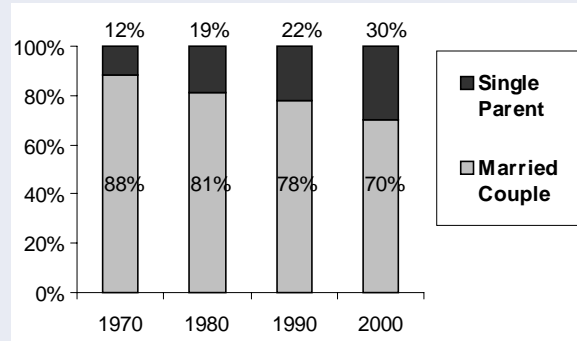
White children and Asian children are far more likely to live in married-couple families than are Black, Hispanic, and Native American children. Nearly one in four White children (23.6%) and Asian children (25.6%) in Rhode Island live in single-parent families compared to 60.6% of Black children, 61.9% of American Indian children, and 52.9% of Hispanic children.

The percentage of children living in single-parent families went up in nearly every community in the state

between 1990 and 2000. Only Jamestown and West Greenwich had slight declines in the rate of children living in single-parent families. There were large increases in the number of children living in single-parent families in many suburban communities – Barrington, Cumberland and Richmond more than doubled the number of children living in such households.

The five core cities, those with child poverty rates higher than 15%, continue to have the highest rates of children living in single-parent families. Providence has the highest of these rates at 51.0% of all children living in single-parent families, followed by Central Falls (47.6%) and Newport (43.7%). Overall, 47.8% of all children living in the core cities live in single-parent families compared to 20.6% of children in the remainder of the state.

Figure 1: Children's Living Arrangements, Rhode Island, 1970 - 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1970, 1980, 1990, and 2000 Census

According to the U.S. Census Bureau definition, a "family household" consists of a householder and one or more people living together in the same household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage or adoption – it may also include others not related to the householder.

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 and the Annie E. Casey Foundation KIDS COUNT Census Data Online Web site at www.aecf.org/kidscount/census.

RI CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 LIVING IN FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS: CENSUS 2000

CITY/TOWN	OWN CHILDREN IN MARRIED-COUPLE FAMILIES			OWN CHILDREN IN SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES			ALL CHILDREN LIVING IN FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS
	1990 %	2000 %	2000 #	1990 %	2000 %	2000 #	2000 TOTAL
Barrington	94%	89%	4,091	6%	11%	501	4,592
Bristol	89%	79%	3,222	11%	21%	870	4,092
Burrillville	87%	82%	3,077	13%	18%	660	3,737
Central Falls	62%	52%	2,607	38%	48%	2,370	4,977
Charlestown	83%	82%	1,305	17%	18%	281	1,586
Coventry	87%	81%	6,287	13%	20%	1,520	7,807
Cranston	81%	76%	11,817	19%	24%	3,809	15,626
Cumberland	90%	83%	6,049	10%	17%	1,224	7,273
East Greenwich	88%	88%	3,042	12%	13%	434	3,476
East Providence	82%	72%	6,919	18%	29%	2,763	9,682
Exeter	91%	85%	1,248	9%	15%	213	1,461
Foster	88%	88%	914	12%	12%	123	1,037
Glocester	89%	85%	2,082	11%	15%	371	2,453
Hopkinton	90%	83%	1,576	10%	17%	317	1,893
Jamestown	83%	85%	1,018	17%	15%	176	1,194
Johnston	82%	79%	4,303	18%	21%	1,137	5,440
Lincoln	86%	80%	3,930	14%	20%	965	4,895
Little Compton	90%	85%	627	10%	15%	113	740
Middletown	85%	81%	3,363	15%	19%	787	4,150
Narragansett	85%	76%	2,002	15%	24%	639	2,641
New Shoreham	89%	81%	139	11%	19%	32	171
Newport	65%	56%	2,723	35%	44%	2,112	4,835
North Kingstown	85%	80%	5,255	15%	20%	1,291	6,546
North Providence	87%	73%	3,973	13%	27%	1,438	5,411
North Smithfield	91%	87%	1,922	9%	14%	299	2,221
Pawtucket	74%	58%	9,537	26%	42%	6,988	16,525
Portsmouth	92%	84%	3,476	8%	16%	660	4,136
Providence	56%	49%	19,721	44%	51%	20,546	40,267
Richmond	95%	85%	1,590	5%	15%	277	1,867
Scituate	90%	88%	2,179	10%	13%	311	2,490
Smithfield	91%	84%	3,184	9%	16%	616	3,800
South Kingstown	82%	81%	4,789	18%	19%	1,098	5,887
Tiverton	84%	83%	2,598	16%	17%	523	3,121
Warren	84%	72%	1,657	16%	28%	631	2,288
Warwick	84%	79%	13,571	16%	21%	3,705	17,276
West Greenwich	86%	88%	1,198	14%	12%	170	1,368
West Warwick	77%	67%	4,101	23%	33%	1,983	6,084
Westerly	86%	74%	3,759	14%	26%	1,318	5,077
Woonsocket	69%	54%	5,562	31%	46%	4,707	10,269
Core Cities*	63%	52%	40,150	37%	48%	36,723	76,873
Remainder of State	85%	79%	120,263	15%	21%	31,255	151,518
Rhode Island	78%	70%	160,413	22%	30%	67,978	228,391

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

Note: A family household is defined by the U.S. Census Bureau as consisting of a householder and one or more people living together in the same household who are related to the householder by birth, marriage or adoption – it may also include others not related to the householder. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1, Annie E. Casey Foundation KIDS COUNT Census Data Online, and 1990 Census.