



2000 U.S. CENSUS BRIEF

Rhode Island KIDS COUNT ♦ One Union Station ♦ Providence, RI 02903

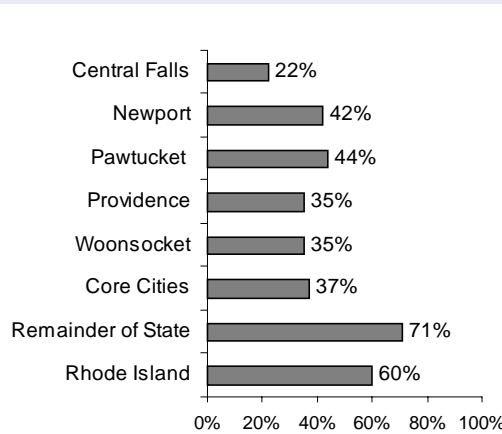
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HOMEOWNERSHIP RATES VARY SIGNIFICANTLY ACROSS RI COMMUNITIES

Homeownership can strengthen neighborhoods as well as families. Homeowners are less likely to move than renters; owners stay in a community up to four times longer than renters. When neighbors stay in one place longer, they have more time to get to know one another, to establish social networks, and to be involved in the schools, churches and other institutions in their neighborhoods. The housing stock is likely to be of better quality and less likely to contain the environmental hazards that face many children living in substandard housing. Children who live in substandard housing are more at risk for injuries, lead poisoning, asthma and malnutrition. Children who move frequently are more likely to be absent from school, to fall behind in their school work and to drop out of high school.

The homeownership rate is the percentage of housing units that are occupied by their owners. According to Census 2000, of the more than 408,000 housing units in Rhode Island, 60% were owner occupied and 40% were occupied by renters. This is not significantly different than the last census done in 1990, but

**Homeownership Rates
Rhode Island and Core Cities, 2000**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1.

below the national homeownership rate of 66%. Homeownership rates vary from community to community, from a high of 91% in Richmond to a low of 22% in Central Falls. The five core cities, those cities with child poverty rates above 15%, have the lowest rates of homeownership and the highest rates of renter-occupied units. Only 37% of housing units in the core cities are owner occupied compared to 71% in the remainder of the state.

There is also significant variation in the homeownership rates by race and ethnicity. White, non-Hispanic Rhode Islanders are much more likely to own their own homes than are any other racial or ethnic group. Of the

White, non-Hispanic Rhode Islanders counted by the 2000 census, 71% lived in owner-occupied housing. This compares to homeownership rates of only 24% of Latinos, 33% of African Americans, 34% of Native Americans, and 48% of Asians in Rhode Island. Programs specifically directed at increasing homeownership among racial and ethnic minority groups have proven to help alleviate this inequity.

Homeownership is only one piece of a successful strategy to meet the housing needs of Rhode Island's families. Median family income has not kept pace with the cost of housing in Rhode Island, putting safe, affordable housing out of reach for many families. Population increases over the decade of the 1990s have caused a strain on the housing market. Between 1990 and 2000 the number of houses and apartments increased by 6% while the number of households increased by 8%. This has resulted in increased housing demand and increased housing costs. Increased housing costs make it more likely that families will go without other basic necessities to avoid the risk of eviction, doubling up with family members or going homeless.

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. For more information on homeownership nationally, see the NeighborWorks® Campaign for Homeownership at www.nw.org. For Rhode Island information contact Ray Neirinckx, RI Housing Resources Commission, at 401-450-1356. Special thanks to Maura O'Brien at the RI Housing and Mortgage Finance Corporation for her assistance with this census brief.

RHODE ISLAND HOUSING UNITS BY TYPE OF OCCUPANCY: CENSUS 2000

CITY/TOWN	OWNER OCCUPIED		RENTER OCCUPIED		TOTAL UNITS NUMBER
	NUMBER	PERCENT	NUMBER	PERCENT	
Barrington	5,311	88%	700	12%	6,011
Bristol	5,490	66%	2,824	34%	8,314
Burrillville	4,271	77%	1,288	23%	5,559
Central Falls	1,460	22%	5,236	78%	6,696
Charlestown	2,663	84%	515	16%	3,178
Coventry	10,240	81%	2,356	19%	12,596
Cranston	20,703	67%	10,251	33%	30,954
Cumberland	9,360	77%	2,838	23%	12,198
East Greenwich	3,739	75%	1,221	25%	4,960
East Providence	12,096	59%	8,434	41%	20,530
Exeter	1,769	85%	316	15%	2,085
Foster	1,352	88%	183	12%	1,535
Glocester	3,078	86%	481	14%	3,559
Hopkinton	2,386	80%	579	20%	2,965
Jamestown	1,863	79%	496	21%	2,359
Johnston	7,999	71%	3,198	29%	11,197
Lincoln	5,453	66%	2,790	34%	8,243
Little Compton	1,189	81%	286	19%	1,475
Middletown	3,944	56%	3,049	44%	6,993
Narragansett	4,237	62%	2,609	38%	6,846
New Shoreham	320	68%	152	32%	472
Newport	4,843	42%	6,723	58%	11,566
North Kingstown	7,555	74%	2,599	26%	10,154
North Providence	8,650	60%	5,701	40%	14,351
North Smithfield	3,131	79%	823	21%	3,954
Pawtucket	13,331	44%	16,716	56%	30,047
Portsmouth	4,995	74%	1,763	26%	6,758
Providence	21,588	35%	40,801	65%	62,389
Richmond	2,296	91%	241	9%	2,537
Scituate	3,259	86%	521	14%	3,780
Smithfield	5,639	78%	1,555	22%	7,194
South Kingstown	6,944	75%	2,324	25%	9,268
Tiverton	4,854	80%	1,223	20%	6,077
Warren	2,765	59%	1,943	41%	4,708
Warwick	25,805	73%	9,712	27%	35,517
West Greenwich	1,574	90%	175	10%	1,749
West Warwick	6,796	54%	5,702	46%	12,498
Westerly	5,994	64%	3,408	36%	9,402
Woonsocket	6,214	35%	11,536	65%	17,750
Core Cities*	47,436	37%	81,012	63%	128,448
Remainder of State	197,720	71%	82,256	29%	279,976
Rhode Island	245,156	60%	163,268	40%	408,424

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

Note: Homeownership rates are calculated by unit, not by structure. Because urban communities have many multi-family structures that may include owner-occupied as well as renter-occupied units, owner-occupancy rates are likely to be skewed more heavily toward rural and suburban areas.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1, Table H4, Tenure [3] - Universe: Occupied Housing Units.