



**kids
count**

2000 U.S. CENSUS BRIEF

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

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EDUCATION LEVELS INCREASE STATEWIDE IN THE 1990S

According to Census 2000, Rhode Islanders are better educated now than in 1990. Rhode Island has education levels nearly equal to the U.S. averages, but lags behind the other New England states on almost all levels of educational attainment.

More Rhode Islanders have completed a four-year college degree or advanced on to graduate school, with 25.6% of the state's 25 years of age and over population holding a bachelor's degree or higher in 2000 compared to 21.3% in 1990. This is an increase of more than 35,000 Rhode Islanders with a bachelor's degree or higher over the past decade. The percentage of Rhode Islanders

whose highest educational attainment was a high school diploma or an equivalent degree has decreased from 29.5% in 1990 to 27.8% in 2000. Fewer people have less than a ninth grade education, decreasing from 72,842 people (11.1%) in 1990 to 56,312 people (8.1%) in 2000.

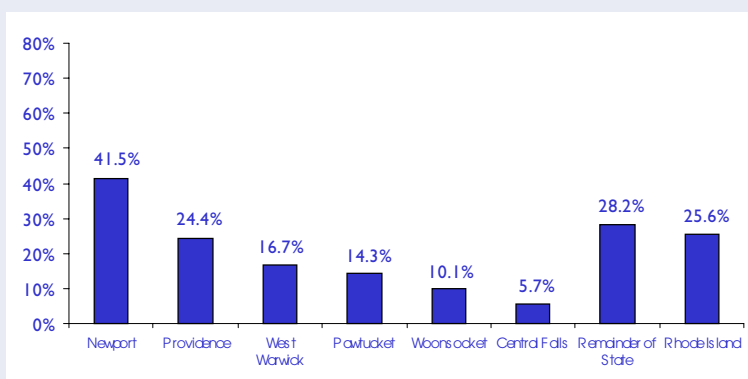
Educational attainment rates vary across the state. Some of the communities with the highest child poverty rates and lowest median household incomes also have the lowest adult educational attainment levels. Of the adults 25 years of age and older living in the core cities, those cities with child poverty rates over 15%, 13.5% (29,927) have less

than a ninth grade education, compared to only 5.6% of the adults living in the remainder of the state. The proportion of adults with less than a ninth grade education is highest in Central Falls (24.3%), Providence (15.2%), Woonsocket (13.7%), Bristol (13.3%), and Pawtucket (13.0%). In addition, Central Falls (5.7%), Woonsocket (10.1%) and Pawtucket (14.3%) have the lowest proportion of people holding higher education degrees. Among core cities, only Newport does not follow this trend, with educational attainment levels far above the state average.

Conversely, the highest income communities in Rhode Island have higher educational attainment levels. More than half of the adults in Barrington and East Greenwich, the two highest income communities in the state, have a bachelor's degree or higher; only 1% to 2% of the adult population of both communities have less than a ninth grade education.

Children who live in low-income communities often face multiple barriers to achieving higher education levels. According to the Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, children who grow up in low-income communities in Rhode Island are far less likely to attend high performing schools than are children in the remainder of the state.

Bachelor's Degree or Higher, Core Cities, Remainder of State, and Rhode Island, 2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.

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 high performing schools, please refer to pages 110-111 of the 2002 Rhode Island KIDS COUNT Factbook.

HIGHEST EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF RI POPULATION ≥ 25 YEARS OF AGE

CITY/TOWN	MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME (1999) \$	LESS THAN NINTH GRADE (2000)		HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE OR EQUIVALENT (2000)		BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR HIGHER (2000)	
		N	%	N	%	N	%
Barrington	\$74,591	222	2.0%	1,836	16.4%	5,957	53.2%
Bristol	\$43,689	1,999	13.3%	3,837	25.6%	3,936	26.3%
Burrillville	\$52,587	562	5.3%	3,685	35.0%	1,700	16.2%
Central Falls	\$22,628	2,738	24.3%	3,160	28.0%	644	5.7%
Charlestown	\$51,491	115	2.0%	1,802	32.0%	1,661	29.5%
Coventry	\$51,987	1,171	5.1%	7,989	34.5%	4,578	19.8%
Cranston	\$44,108	3,681	6.6%	16,036	28.7%	13,745	24.6%
Cumberland	\$54,656	1,731	7.7%	6,059	27.1%	6,597	29.5%
East Greenwich	\$70,062	125	1.4%	1,328	15.2%	4,939	56.6%
East Providence	\$39,108	4,077	11.8%	10,125	29.4%	6,225	18.0%
Exeter	\$64,452	212	5.2%	1,052	25.7%	1,237	30.2%
Foster	\$59,673	83	2.9%	853	29.5%	803	27.7%
Glocester	\$57,537	238	3.6%	1,963	29.7%	1,796	27.2%
Hopkinton	\$52,181	201	3.8%	1,957	36.8%	1,147	21.6%
Jamestown	\$63,073	114	2.7%	816	19.6%	1,900	45.7%
Johnston	\$43,514	1,265	6.1%	7,036	34.2%	3,687	17.9%
Lincoln	\$47,815	1,040	7.2%	3,750	25.9%	4,328	29.9%
Little Compton	\$55,368	100	3.8%	575	22.1%	1,172	45.0%
Middletown	\$51,075	326	2.7%	3,053	25.7%	4,545	38.2%
Narragansett	\$50,363	218	2.1%	2,326	22.5%	4,329	41.8%
New Shoreham	\$44,779	6	0.8%	150	19.4%	372	48.1%
Newport	\$40,669	786	4.5%	3,726	21.4%	7,227	41.5%
North Kingstown	\$60,027	355	2.0%	4,159	23.3%	7,191	40.3%
North Providence	\$39,721	1,339	5.6%	7,336	30.5%	5,100	21.2%
North Smithfield	\$58,602	492	6.4%	2,070	27.0%	1,990	25.9%
Pawtucket	\$31,775	6,280	13.0%	14,439	30.0%	6,871	14.3%
Portsmouth	\$58,835	409	3.4%	2,840	23.6%	5,164	42.9%
Providence	\$26,867	14,608	15.2%	22,167	23.1%	23,450	24.4%
Richmond	\$59,840	171	3.6%	1,413	29.7%	1,274	26.8%
Scituate	\$60,788	250	3.5%	1,958	27.7%	2,186	30.9%
Smithfield	\$55,621	589	4.4%	3,722	27.6%	3,886	28.8%
South Kingstown	\$56,325	374	2.3%	3,367	20.8%	7,564	46.8%
Tiverton	\$49,977	933	8.5%	3,239	29.6%	2,633	24.0%
Warren	\$41,285	806	10.0%	2,353	29.3%	1,835	22.9%
Warwick	\$46,483	2,172	3.5%	19,687	32.1%	15,027	24.5%
West Greenwich	\$65,725	81	2.4%	917	27.4%	998	29.9%
West Warwick	\$39,505	1,660	8.3%	6,367	31.7%	3,356	16.7%
Westerly	\$44,613	928	5.8%	4,784	30.0%	3,917	24.6%
Woonsocket	\$30,819	3,855	13.7%	8,982	32.0%	2,850	10.1%
Core Cities*	NA	29,927	13.5%	58,841	26.6%	44,398	20.1%
Remainder of State	NA	26,385	5.6%	134,073	28.3%	133,419	28.2%
Rhode Island	\$42,090	56,312	8.1%	192,914	27.8%	177,817	25.6%

*Core cities, those cities in which more than 15% of the children live in poverty, are Central Falls, Newport, Pawtucket, Providence, West Warwick, and Woonsocket.

Note: The definition of adult in this census brief is an individual 25 years of age or over.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.