

Family and Community

Mother to Son

Well, son, I'll tell you:
Life for me ain't been no crystal stair.
It's had tacks in it,
And splinters,
And boards torn up,
And places with no carpet on the floor—
Bare.
But all the time
I's been a-climbin' on,
And reachin' landin's,
And turnin' corners,
And sometimes goin' in the dark
Where there ain't been no light.
So boy, don't you turn back.
Don't set down on the steps
'Cause you finds it's kinder hard.
Don't you fall now—
For I's still goin's, honey,
I's still climbin',
And life for me ain't been no crystal stair.

Langston Hughes



Child Population

DEFINITION

Child population is the total number of children under the age of 18 and the percentage change between 1990 and 2000 in the total number of children under age 18.

SIGNIFICANCE

In 2000, the number of family households with children under age 18 in Rhode Island was 124,867, comprising almost a third (31%) of all Rhode Island households.¹ According to the decennial census of April 2000, there were 1,048,319 Rhode Island residents. Of these, 24% or 247,822 were children under age 18. This is a 10% increase since 1990. There were 22,132 more children in Rhode Island in 2000 than in 1990.²

The number of U.S. children recorded by Census 2000 was the largest in history at 72.3 million.³ This represents a substantial increase in the child population over the decade of the 1990s. Children now make up 26% of the U.S. population.⁴

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 between 1990 and 2000 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 71,370.⁵ In contrast the number of children under age 5 living in Rhode Island dropped by nearly 5%, decreasing from 66,969 in 1990 to 63,896 in 2000.⁶

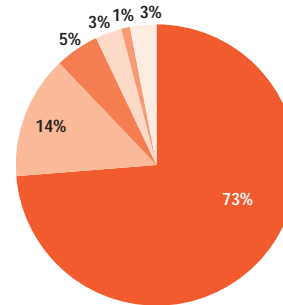
The percentage change in the total population under age 18 varied widely among towns in Rhode Island. The largest increase was in West Greenwich where the child population increased by 58%.⁷ Although the child population increased in most Rhode Island towns, some locations had decreases. Both Burrillville and Newport had reductions of 10% in the number of residents under age 18.⁸

Rhode Island's children are diverse in race, ethnic background, language, and country of origin. Children under age 18 are significantly more diverse in racial and ethnic backgrounds than the adult population. Nationally, and in Rhode Island, the increase in the child population was led by minority children.⁹ In Rhode Island, the number of White, non-Hispanic children declined over the decade of the 1990s by nearly 9,000 children, while the number of minority children increased by 31,000 to nearly 68,000.¹⁰

Rhode Island's Children, 2000

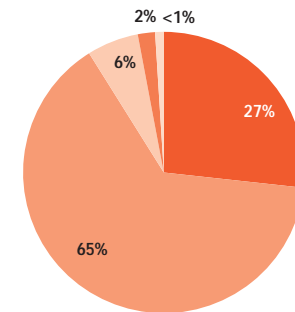
By Race/Ethnicity*

- 73% White
- 14% Hispanic
- 5% African American
- 3% Asian and Pacific Islander
- 1% Some Other Race
- 3% Two or More Races



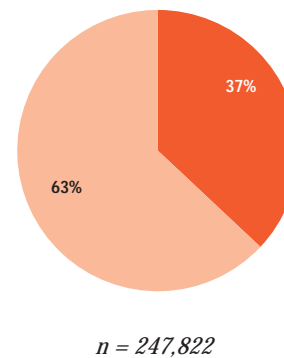
By Family Structure

- 27% Single Parent Families**
- 65% Married Couple Families**
- 6% Other Relatives
- 2% Unrelated Individuals
- <1% Group Quarters



By Residence

- 37% Core Cities***
- 63% Remainder of State



*Hispanics are not included in any other racial group. Two or more races was not possible as a selection in the 1990 census.

**Includes only children who are related to the head of household by birth or adoption.

***According to Census 2000, there are now six core cities in Rhode Island, i.e., communities in which 15% or more of the children live in families with income below the federal poverty level. There are 91,945 children who live in one of the six core cities: Central Falls, Newport, Pawtucket, Providence, West Warwick and Woonsocket.

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

Child Population, Rhode Island, 1990 and 2000

Table 1.

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
Barrington	3,912	4,745	833	21%
Bristol	4,380	4,399	19	0%
Burrillville	4,479	4,043	-436	-10%
Central Falls	4,810	5,531	721	15%
Charlestown	1,575	1,712	137	9%
Coventry	7,626	8,389	763	10%
Cranston	14,673	17,098	2,425	17%
Cumberland	6,427	7,690	1,263	20%
East Greenwich	2,913	3,564	651	22%
East Providence	10,657	10,546	-111	-1%
Exeter	1,521	1,589	68	5%
Foster	1,185	1,105	-80	-7%
Glocester	2,526	2,664	138	6%
Hopkinton	1,839	2,011	172	9%
Jamestown	1,123	1,238	115	10%
Johnston	5,332	5,906	574	11%
Lincoln	3,890	5,157	1,267	33%
Little Compton	750	780	30	4%
Middletown	4,676	4,328	-348	-7%
Narragansett	2,869	2,833	-36	-1%
New Shoreham	163	185	22	14%
Newport	5,756	5,199	-557	-10%
North Kingstown	6,076	6,848	772	13%
North Providence	5,655	5,936	281	5%
North Smithfield	2,332	2,379	47	2%
Pawtucket	16,719	18,151	1,432	9%
Portsmouth	4,175	4,329	154	4%
Providence	37,972	45,277	7,305	19%
Richmond	1,565	2,014	449	29%
Scituate	2,426	2,635	209	9%
Smithfield	3,898	4,019	121	3%
South Kingstown	4,770	6,284	1,514	32%
Tiverton	3,166	3,367	201	6%
Warren	2,452	2,454	2	0%
Warwick	18,322	18,780	458	3%
West Greenwich	915	1,444	529	58%
West Warwick	6,560	6,632	72	1%
Westerly	4,988	5,406	418	8%
Woonsocket	10,617	11,155	538	5%
<i>Core Cities</i>	<i>82,434</i>	<i>91,945</i>	<i>9,511</i>	<i>12%</i>
<i>Remainder of State</i>	<i>143,256</i>	<i>155,877</i>	<i>12,621</i>	<i>9%</i>
<i>Rhode Island</i>	<i>225,690</i>	<i>247,822</i>	<i>22,132</i>	<i>10%</i>

Source of Data for Table/Methodology

U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 Census of the Population and Census 2000, Summary File 1.

Core cities are Central Falls, Newport, Pawtucket, Providence, West Warwick and Woonsocket.

References for Indicator

^{1,2,7,8,10} U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census 2000 Summary File 1.

^{3,9} O'Hare, W. (June 2001) *The Child Population: First Data from the 2000 Census* Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation and The Population Reference Bureau.

⁴ *America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being* (2002). Washington, DC: Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics.

^{5,6} U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census of Population and Census 2000.

Children in Single Parent Families

DEFINITION

Children in single parent families is the percentage of children under age 18 who live in families headed by a person — male or female — without a spouse present in the home. These numbers include own children defined as never-married children under age 18 who are related to the family head by birth, marriage, or adoption.

SIGNIFICANCE

Children living in single-parent families are at increased risk of living in poverty compared to children living in two-parent families. In 2001, 35% of single-parent families with children under age 18 were living below the poverty level compared to only 4% of married-couple families.¹ In 2001, the average household income in Rhode Island for two-parent families with children was \$81,271 compared to \$56,296 for single-parent families headed by a man and \$34,158 for single-parent families headed by a woman.² Of the 67,978 Rhode Island children who lived in single-parent families in 2000, 83% lived in households headed by a female.³

Most of the 247,822 children in Rhode Island live in family households (92%). The remainder live with other relatives (6%), other unrelated

individuals (2%), or in group quarters, including juvenile detention facilities, hospitals and group homes (less than 1%).⁴

Following the national trend, more Rhode Island children are growing up in single-parent households than any time since the census began collecting information on household living arrangements. In 1970, only 12% of children in Rhode Island lived in single-parent families, compared to 23% in 1990 and 30% in 2000.⁵

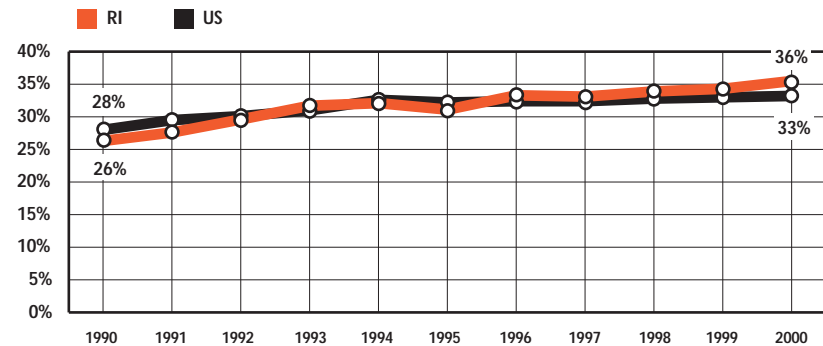
Of all Rhode Island children living with at least one biological or adoptive parent, 70% lived in married-couple families and the remaining 30% (67,978) lived in single-parent families.⁶ White children and Asian children are far more likely to live in married-couple families than are Black, Hispanic and Native American children.⁷ The core cities, those with child poverty rates higher than 15%, continue to have the highest rates of children living in single-parent families.⁸

Single Parent Families		
	1990	2000
RI	23%	32%
US	24%	30%
State Rank	34th	

1st is best; 50th is worst

Source: *Children At Risk: State Trends 1999-2000* (2002). Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Births to Unmarried Women as a Percentage of All Births, Rhode Island and the United States, 1990 – 2002



Source: *The Right Start for America's Newborns: A Decade of City and State Trends 1990 – 2000* (2003). Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation. Percentage is based on total number of births.

- ◆ In Rhode Island, the percentage of births to unmarried mothers has increased from 26% in 1990 to 36% in 2000. Rhode Island is ranked 11th in the country for the highest rates of births to unmarried mothers.⁹
- ◆ In Providence in 2000, 58% of all births were to unmarried women. When compared with the 50 largest cities in the country, Providence ranks 6th for the highest rates of births to unmarried women.¹⁰
- ◆ Children born to unmarried mothers are more likely to grow up in single-parent families and to experience multiple living arrangements during childhood. These multiple living arrangements are associated with reduced educational attainment, increased likelihood of sexual activity during adolescence, and teen pregnancy and parenting.¹¹
- ◆ Children in single-parent families, children born to unmarried mothers and children in cohabitating relationships are at higher risk for poor outcomes than are children living in households headed by two parents in a low-conflict marriage.^{12, 13}

Children in Single Parent Families

Table 2. Children's Living Arrangements, Rhode Island, 2000

CITY/TOWN	ALL CHILDREN LIVING IN FAMILY HOUSEHOLDS	NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER 18 YEARS			
		TWO-PARENT FAMILIES		SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES	
		N	%	N	%
Barrington	4,592	4,091	89%	501	11%
Bristol	4,092	3,222	79%	870	21%
Burrillville	3,737	3,077	82%	660	18%
Central Falls	4,977	2,607	52%	2,370	48%
Charlestown	1,586	1,305	82%	281	18%
Coventry	7,807	6,287	81%	1,520	19%
Cranston	15,626	11,817	76%	3,809	24%
Cumberland	7,273	6,049	83%	1,224	17%
East Greenwich	3,476	3,042	88%	434	12%
East Providence	9,682	6,919	71%	2,763	29%
Exeter	1,461	1,248	85%	213	15%
Foster	1,037	914	88%	123	12%
Glocester	2,453	2,082	85%	371	15%
Hopkinton	1,893	1,576	83%	317	17%
Jamestown	1,194	1,018	85%	176	15%
Johnston	5,440	4,303	79%	1,137	21%
Lincoln	4,895	3,930	80%	965	20%
Little Compton	740	627	85%	113	15%
Middletown	4,150	3,363	81%	787	19%
Narragansett	2,641	2,002	76%	639	24%
New Shoreham	171	139	81%	32	19%
Newport	4,835	2,723	56%	2,112	44%
North Kingstown	6,546	5,255	80%	1,291	20%
North Providence	5,411	3,973	73%	1,438	27%
North Smithfield	2,221	1,922	87%	299	13%
Pawtucket	16,525	9,537	58%	6,988	42%
Portsmouth	4,136	3,476	84%	660	16%
Providence	40,267	19,721	49%	20,546	51%
Richmond	1,867	1,590	85%	277	15%
Scituate	2,490	2,179	88%	311	12%
Smithfield	3,800	3,184	84%	616	16%
South Kingstown	5,887	4,789	81%	1,098	19%
Tiverton	3,121	2,598	83%	523	17%
Warren	2,288	1,657	72%	631	28%
Warwick	17,276	13,571	79%	3,705	21%
West Greenwich	1,368	1,198	88%	170	12%
West Warwick	6,084	4,101	67%	1,983	33%
Westerly	5,077	3,759	74%	1,318	26%
Woonsocket	10,269	5,562	54%	4,707	46%
Core Cities	82,957	44,251	53%	38,706	47%
Remainder of State	145,434	116,162	80%	29,272	20%
Rhode Island	228,391	160,413	70%	67,978	30%

Note to Table

The denominator is the number of children under age 18 living in family households according to the census. 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.

Source of Data for Table/Methodology

U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census of Population and Census 2000. Core cities are Central Falls, Newport, Pawtucket, Providence, West Warwick and Woonsocket.

References for Indicator

^{1,2} U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey, 2000 to 2002 average.

^{3,4,5,6,8} U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census 2000, Summary File One.

⁷ Census Data Online, (January 2001). <http://www.aecf.org/kidscount/census>. Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation KIDS COUNT.

^{9,10} *The Right Start for America's Newborns: A Decade of City and State Trends* (1990 – 2000). (2003) Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation.

¹¹ Terry-Humen, E., et. al. (April 2001). *Births Outside of Marriage: Perceptions vs. Reality*. Washington, DC: Child Trends.

¹² Anderson Moore, K., et. al. (June 2002). *Marriage from a Child's Perspective: How Does Family Structure Affect Children, and What Can We Do about It?* Washington, DC: Child Trends.

¹³ Acs, G. and S. Nelson (July 2002). *The Kids Are Alright? Children's Well-Being and the Rise in Cohabitation*. Washington, DC: The Urban Institute.

Mother's Education Level

DEFINITION

Mother's education level is the percentage of total births to women with less than a high school diploma. Data are self-reported at the time of the infant's birth. Although a father's education level has a major impact on his child's development, this indicator uses mother's education level because a significant number of birth records lack information on father's education level.

SIGNIFICANCE

The level of parental educational attainment can affect many aspects of child well-being. Research shows that there are strong links between parental education levels and a child's school readiness, health in adolescence and the level of education that the child will ultimately achieve.¹ Higher education levels of parents have been shown to contribute to a more supportive home learning environment for children.²

Children of parents with higher education levels are much less likely to grow up in economically-disadvantaged households. In the US in 2001, people without a high school diploma earned only two-thirds of the earnings of a high school graduate, and only a little more than one-third of the earnings of an individual with a bachelor's degree.³ Children of immigrants and children of color are least likely to have parents with

high educational levels.^{4,5} Higher educational attainment increases earnings across all racial and ethnic categories.⁶

Rhode Island has education levels nearly equal to U.S. averages but lags behind other New England states on almost all levels of educational attainment.⁷ There are currently 153,086 Rhode Island adults age 25 years and older with less than a high school diploma.⁸ Of these adults, 37% have less than a 9th grade education.⁹

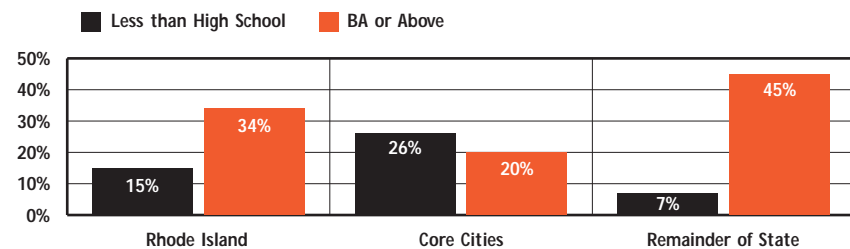
Of the 9,309 Rhode Island children born to mothers with less than a high school diploma between 1997 and 2001, 105 were to teen mothers under the age of 15 and 1,796 were to mothers from 15 to 17 years old.¹⁰ Teen mothers are far less likely to complete high school than teenage women who did not give birth.¹¹

Percent of Total Births to Mothers with Less than 12 Years of Education		
	1990	2000
RI	19%	15%
US	24%	22%
State Rank	18th	

1st is best; 50th is worst

Source: *KIDS COUNT DATA BOOK: State Profiles in Child Well-Being 2002* (2002). Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation.

Births by Maternal Educational Attainment, Rhode Island, Core Cities, Remainder of State, 1997-2001



Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Division of Family Health, Maternal and Child Health Database, 1997-2001 average.

- ◆ In Rhode Island between 1997 and 2001, there were 9,309 infants born to mothers with less than a high school diploma. This was 15% of all births in Rhode Island, 26% of all births in the core cities, and 7% of all births in the remainder of the state.¹²
- ◆ In Rhode Island, Native American children (34%), Hispanic children (34%), Black children (22%) and Asian children (18%) are more likely to be born to a mother with less than a high school diploma than are White children (14%).¹³

Literacy and English Proficiency in Rhode Island

- ◆ Adults with the lowest literacy levels are more likely to live in poverty and be unemployed or underemployed. Children of adults who participate in literacy programs improve their grades and test scores, improve their reading skills, and are less likely to drop out of school.¹⁴
- ◆ Many of Rhode Island's children have parents who do not speak English well. According to Census 2000, there were 20,799 households that were linguistically-isolated, i.e., households in which no member 14 years old and over speaks English "very well". In addition, there were 36,412 adults who did not speak English or do not speak English "well".¹⁵

Births by Education Level of Mother, Rhode Island, 1997-2001

Table 3.

CITY/TOWN	ALL BIRTHS	BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR ABOVE		SOME COLLEGE		HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA		LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Barrington	820	617	75%	107	13%	75	9%	6	1%
Bristol	1,067	466	44%	219	21%	293	28%	77	7%
Burrillville	781	247	32%	183	23%	259	33%	62	8%
Central Falls	1,781	132	7%	220	12%	645	36%	704	40%
Charlestown	446	175	39%	112	25%	114	26%	39	9%
Coventry	1,924	794	41%	391	20%	595	31%	131	7%
Cranston	4,171	1,755	42%	848	20%	1,159	28%	340	8%
Cumberland	1,701	851	50%	346	20%	373	22%	101	6%
East Greenwich	588	412	70%	83	14%	75	13%	12	2%
East Providence	2,499	828	33%	480	19%	875	35%	268	11%
Exeter	341	170	50%	52	15%	97	28%	19	6%
Foster	197	85	43%	41	21%	58	29%	10	5%
Glocester	464	190	41%	124	27%	117	25%	27	6%
Hopkinton	488	185	38%	97	20%	175	36%	24	5%
Jamestown	205	163	80%	18	9%	15	7%	4	2%
Johnston	1,492	592	40%	317	21%	454	30%	106	7%
Lincoln	990	472	48%	193	20%	234	24%	58	6%
Little Compton	157	98	62%	22	14%	28	18%	6	4%
Middletown	1,083	457	42%	258	24%	309	29%	54	5%
Narragansett	667	393	59%	115	17%	121	18%	29	4%
New Shoreham	57	29	51%	15	26%	9	16%	2	4%
Newport	1,645	559	34%	317	19%	457	28%	296	18%
North Kingstown	1,500	916	61%	227	15%	266	18%	71	5%
North Providence	1,576	596	38%	345	22%	474	30%	128	8%
North Smithfield	515	258	50%	95	18%	124	24%	25	5%
Pawtucket	5,030	970	19%	867	17%	1,906	38%	1,121	22%
Portsmouth	917	520	57%	182	20%	179	20%	26	3%
Providence	13,589	2,759	20%	1,723	13%	4,677	34%	3,725	27%
Richmond	473	215	46%	95	20%	131	28%	28	6%
Scituate	506	255	50%	104	21%	117	23%	23	5%
Smithfield	805	447	56%	160	20%	159	20%	21	3%
South Kingstown	1,298	781	60%	193	15%	213	16%	90	7%
Tiverton	649	246	38%	163	25%	186	29%	53	8%
Warren	582	224	39%	129	22%	161	28%	58	10%
Warwick	4,428	1,761	40%	936	21%	1,348	30%	329	7%
West Greenwich	297	158	53%	49	17%	77	26%	10	3%
West Warwick	2,024	495	25%	381	19%	788	39%	335	17%
Westerly	1,375	406	30%	303	22%	496	36%	155	11%
Woonsocket	2,980	360	12%	472	16%	1,200	40%	736	25%
<i>Core Cities</i>	<i>27,049</i>	<i>5,275</i>	<i>20%</i>	<i>3,980</i>	<i>15%</i>	<i>9,673</i>	<i>36%</i>	<i>6,917</i>	<i>26%</i>
<i>Remainder of State</i>	<i>35,059</i>	<i>15,762</i>	<i>45%</i>	<i>7,002</i>	<i>20%</i>	<i>9,366</i>	<i>27%</i>	<i>2,392</i>	<i>7%</i>
<i>Rhode Island</i>	<i>62,108</i>	<i>21,037</i>	<i>34%</i>	<i>10,982</i>	<i>18%</i>	<i>19,039</i>	<i>31%</i>	<i>9,309</i>	<i>15%</i>

Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Rhode Island Department of Health, Division of Family Health, Maternal and Child Health Database, 1997-2001. Data for 1999-2001 are provisional. Data are self-reported and reported by the mother's place of residence, not the place of the infant's birth. Data may not include all births among Rhode Island residents that occurred out of state.

Note that for 1,741 births between 1997 – 2001, the education level of the mother was unknown and for two births the place of residence was unknown.

References for Indicator

- ¹⁴ *Parental Education, Child Trends Databank*, February 2003, www.childtrends.org
- ² *Knowledge and Skills for Life, Parental Education, OECD Programme for International Student Assessment*, February 2003, www.pisa.oecd.org
- ^{3,6} *Money Income in the United States: 2001* (September 2002). Washington, DC: U.S. Bureau of the Census.
- ⁵ *America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being 2002* (2002). Washington, DC: Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics.
- ^{7,8,9,15} U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census 2000.
- ^{10,12,13} Rhode Island Department of Health, Division of Family Health, Maternal and Child Health Database, 1997-2001.
- ¹¹ *Teen Mothers: Selected Socio-Demographic Characteristics and Risk Factors* (June 1998). Washington, DC: United States General Accounting Office.
- ¹⁴ *Fact Sheet: Adult and Family Literacy* (April 2000). Washington, DC: National Institute for Literacy.

Racial and Ethnic Diversity

DEFINITION

Racial and ethnic diversity is the number of children under age 18 by racial and ethnic categories as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau for the 2000 U.S. Census of the Population. For children living in households, racial and ethnic categories are chosen by the head of household or person completing the census form.

SIGNIFICANCE

Racial and ethnic diversity has increased significantly in the United States over the last several decades. With increased immigration and higher fertility rates among minorities, diversity is projected to continue to rise in the future.¹ Nationally, minority children (all those except White, non-Hispanic children) accounted for 98% of the growth in the child population during the 1990s.² In 1980, nearly three quarters (74%) of all U.S. children under age 18 were White, non-Hispanic. This number has dropped to less than two-thirds (64%) in 2000. By 2020, slightly more than half (55%) of all children in the United States are projected to be White, non-Hispanic.³

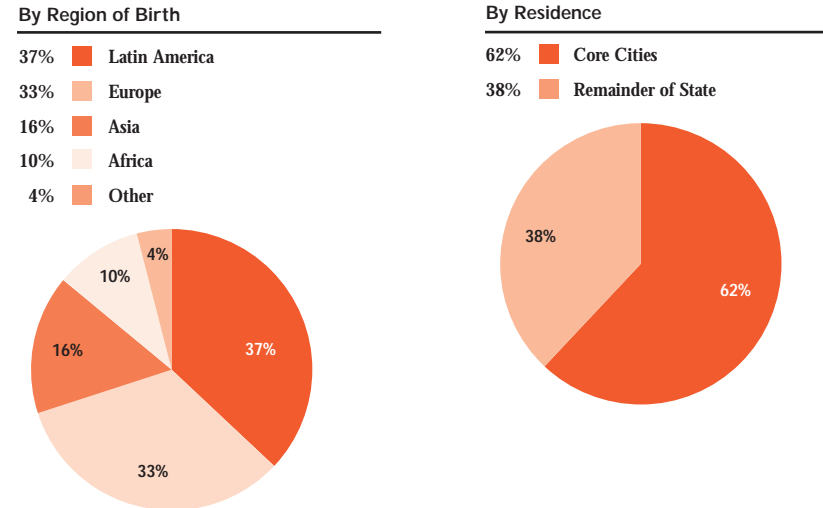
In Rhode Island, 73% of children in the state were White, non-Hispanic in 2000, compared to 84% in 1990.^{4,5} The number of children of color nearly doubled from 36,867 in 1990 to nearly

67,747 in 2000. The number of White, non-Hispanic children dropped by 8,748 during the same time period.^{6,7} Minority children are highly concentrated in the core cities. More than half (58%) of the 91,945 children living in the core cities are minority children. More than three-quarters (78%) of all minority children in Rhode Island live in these six communities.⁸

Immigrant children are also more likely to live in one of the core cities. There are 31,415 households in Rhode Island headed by immigrant parents of children under age 18.⁹ Compared to children born in the U.S., children in immigrant families are more likely to live in two-parent working households but more likely to be poor and have health problems. In addition, their families are less able to draw from community resources including extracurricular activities, food, health, mental health and housing assistance in times of need.¹⁰

Diversity presents opportunities and challenges to schools, child care centers, health care providers, social service agencies and other community service providers. Programs will need to adapt their current practices to meet the needs of a changing population.¹¹

Foreign-Born Individuals, Rhode Island, 2000



n = 119,277

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

Immigration in Rhode Island

- ◆ Over the last ten years, there has been an increase in the number of foreign-born individuals living in Rhode Island. The immigrant population in Rhode Island grew by 31% between 1990 and 2000, increasing from 91,061 individuals in 1990 to 119,277 in 2000.^{12,13} Just under half (47%) of these Rhode Islanders are naturalized citizens.¹⁴
- ◆ Nearly two out of every three (62%) foreign-born individuals in Rhode Island live in the core cities. Most of the foreign-born individuals from Africa (81%) and from Latin America (88%) live in the core cities.¹⁵
- ◆ In 2001, Rhode Island was home to 8,476 individuals under age 18 who were born outside the United States, 3% of all the children in the state.¹⁶ These numbers are likely to be an underestimate as immigrant children are among the most likely to be undercounted by population estimates.¹⁷

Table 4.

Child Population, by Race and Ethnicity, Rhode Island, 2000

CITY/TOWN	UNDER AGE 18 BY RACE AND ETHNICITY								2000 POPULATION UNDER AGE 18
	HISPANIC OR LATINO	WHITE	BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN	AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE	ASIAN	NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND OTHER PACIFIC	SOME OTHER RACE	TWO OR MORE RACES	
Barrington	59	4,479	29	8	106	0	4	60	4,745
Bristol	88	4,183	30	3	21	4	3	67	4,399
Burrillville	59	3,915	11	8	6	0	11	33	4,043
Central Falls	3,122	1,574	292	29	22	0	225	267	5,531
Charlestown	38	1,597	7	26	12	0	1	31	1,712
Coventry	151	7,975	47	8	46	2	10	150	8,389
Cranston	1,213	14,041	513	59	796	5	71	400	17,098
Cumberland	231	7,185	65	5	70	3	38	93	7,690
East Greenwich	59	3,308	30	1	106	0	11	49	3,564
East Providence	360	8,366	681	48	114	4	323	650	10,546
Exeter	36	1,484	9	9	8	0	0	43	1,589
Foster	17	1,054	2	1	11	2	3	15	1,105
Glocester	31	2,573	15	2	10	0	1	32	2,664
Hopkinton	35	1,889	11	27	10	0	3	36	2,011
Jamestown	19	1,183	14	4	4	0	0	14	1,238
Johnston	203	5,425	63	9	93	1	21	91	5,906
Lincoln	151	4,694	73	2	116	1	21	99	5,157
Little Compton	12	756	1	0	2	0	0	9	780
Middletown	201	3,549	246	23	104	1	15	189	4,328
Narragansett	69	2,566	27	52	25	0	5	89	2,833
New Shoreham	3	175	3	0	3	0	0	1	185
Newport	602	3,485	555	86	55	7	51	358	5,199
North Kingstown	210	6,286	70	37	76	0	11	158	6,848
North Providence	377	5,033	208	12	122	3	48	133	5,936
North Smithfield	17	2,305	13	8	15	0	1	20	2,379
Pawtucket	3,820	10,090	1,776	53	131	7	1,251	1,023	18,151
Portsmouth	114	4,016	55	5	58	0	8	73	4,329
Providence	20,350	10,858	7,606	621	3,043	19	575	2,205	45,277
Richmond	32	1,916	7	19	8	0	0	32	2,014
Scituate	30	2,535	10	1	24	1	5	29	2,635
Smithfield	50	3,880	18	2	29	0	2	38	4,019
South Kingstown	128	5,561	87	126	169	0	19	194	6,284
Tiverton	46	3,234	15	4	18	0	8	42	3,367
Warren	36	2,294	38	4	11	1	6	64	2,454
Warwick	516	17,220	217	50	322	1	35	419	18,780
West Greenwich	13	1,396	4	3	7	0	5	16	1,444
West Warwick	384	5,792	86	29	102	3	26	210	6,632
Westerly	96	4,931	45	45	143	0	11	135	5,406
Woonsocket	2,024	7,272	606	29	591	5	46	582	11,155
Core Cities	30,302	39,071	10,921	847	3,944	41	2,174	4,645	91,945
Remainder of State	4,700	141,004	2,664	611	2,665	29	700	3,504	155,877
Rhode Island	35,002	180,075	13,585	1,458	6,609	70	2,874	8,149	247,822

Source of Data for Table/Methodology

U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Redistricting File.

All categories are mutually exclusive. If Hispanic was selected as ethnicity, individuals are not included in other racial categories. Likewise, if more than one race was selected, individuals are included in two or more races and not in their individual race categories.

The core cities are Central Falls, Newport, Pawtucket, Providence, West Warwick and Woonsocket.

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Racial and Ethnic Disparities

DEFINITION

Racial and ethnic disparities is the gap that exists in outcomes for children of different racial and ethnic groups in Rhode Island. Child well-being outcome areas include economic well-being, health, education and safety.

SIGNIFICANCE

Rhode Island's children are diverse in race, ethnic background, language and country of origin. During the 1990s, the percentage of minority children in Rhode Island increased from 16% to 27%, with a particularly large increase in the number of Hispanic children.¹ Although there have been substantial improvements in child well-being over the last century across racial and ethnic lines, large disparities still exist between White, non-Hispanic children and children from other racial and ethnic groups.

The growing diversity of Rhode Island's children is not evenly distributed. Increasingly, minority children are concentrated in core urban communities which also have increasingly high rates of child poverty.² More than three quarters (77%) of Rhode Island's minority children live in one of the six core cities where child poverty rates are over 15%.³ Three-quarters of the children in Providence (76%) and in Central Falls (72%) are of minority racial and ethnic

backgrounds.⁴ In several neighborhoods of Providence, children of color now comprise over 90% of all children. These neighborhoods have some of the highest child poverty rates in the state.⁵

Research demonstrates a significant relationship between residence in low-income or poor neighborhoods and increased teen pregnancy and high-school drop out rates.⁶ When compared with White, non-Hispanic children in poverty, Black and Hispanic children living in families with income below the poverty line are more likely to live in neighborhoods in which 40% or more of the residents live in poor families.⁷

The racial and ethnic segregation of U.S. neighborhoods over the past three decades, while decreasing overall, decreased less for children than the general population, and was countered by increased school segregation.⁸ The Providence-Warwick-Fall River, MA metropolitan area was the second most segregated large metropolitan area in the nation for Hispanics in 2000, and was also the metropolitan area with the largest increase in segregation between 1980 and 2000.⁹ More than three-quarters of Rhode Island's Latinos live in Providence, Pawtucket or Central Falls.¹⁰



Rhode Island's Native American Children

◆ According to Census 2000, there were 1,877 children who were identified as Native American or Alaska Native living in Rhode Island.¹¹ Three-quarters of the Native American children in Rhode Island live in the towns of Providence, South Kingstown, Newport, Cranston, Pawtucket, Narragansett, Warwick and East Providence.¹² There were 3,901 children identified in the Census as Native American or Alaska Native in combination with another race.¹³

Economics

◆ Native American children are among the most likely to live in families with incomes below the poverty threshold.¹⁴ More than 50% of the 1,877 Native American children in Rhode Island are poor, compared to 17% of children overall.¹⁵

◆ Household income in these families is low at \$22,813 compared to \$42,090 statewide.¹⁶ Native American children are the most likely to live in a single parent family, with 62% of children living in single parent families compared to 30% of all children in Rhode Island.¹⁷ Only 34% of Native Americans in Rhode Island live in housing that they own compared to 60% overall and 71% of White, non-Hispanic households.¹⁸

Health

◆ Rhode Island children of Native American background are the most likely of all racial backgrounds in the state to be born without adequate prenatal care (17% compared to 9% overall) and to women with less than a high school diploma (34% compared to 15% overall).¹⁹ Rhode Island Native American teens are nearly four times as likely to be teen mothers as other teens in the state (83.0 per 1,000 teens compared to 22.5 per 1,000 overall).²⁰

Education

◆ Native Americans in Rhode Island have lower educational attainment levels than the population overall. Only 78% of Native American youth graduate from high school compared to 84% of all youth in the state.²¹ Of those Native Americans 25 years of age and over, 14% hold a bachelor's degree or higher compared to 26% of all Rhode Islanders.²²

Economic Outcomes, by Race and Ethnicity, Rhode Island

	WHITE	HISPANIC	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	ALL RACES
Children in poverty	8%	47%	38%	26%	51%	17%
% with maternal education < 12 years	14%	34%	22%	18%	34%	15%
% children with all parents in the workforce	65%	49%	63%	54%	50%	62%
Median household income	\$45,314	\$22,851	\$24,973	\$36,473	\$22,813	\$42,090
Homeownership	71%	24%	33%	48%	34%	60%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 all except Maternal Education Levels from Rhode Island Department of Health, Maternal and Child Health Database. All Census 2000 data refers to only those individuals who selected one race. Black, Asian and Native American categories include both those individuals who identified themselves as Hispanic and those who identified themselves as non-Hispanic.

◆ In 2000, there were 40,177 poor children in Rhode Island. Sixty-four percent of Rhode Island's poor children are children of color. Rhode Island's child poverty rates for Hispanic and Asian children are significantly higher than the U.S. rates for these racial and ethnic groups.²³

◆ Children living in single parent families are much more likely to be poor. Native American, Black, and Hispanic children in Rhode Island are about twice as likely to live in a single-parent family as their White counterparts. In 2000 in Rhode Island, 24% of White children, 62% of Native American children, 61% of Black children, and 53% of Hispanic children lived in single parent families.²⁴

Health Outcomes, by Race and Ethnicity, Rhode Island

	WHITE	HISPANIC	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	ALL RACES
Women with delayed prenatal care	8.1%	13.5%	15.3%	15.1%	16.5%	9%
Births to teens ages 15 – 17 (per 1,000 teens)	21.7	62.6	51.1	43.7	83.0	22.5
Infants born low birthweight	6.7%	7.4%	11.8%	9.1%	10.7%	7.4%
Children under age 6 with high lead levels (>= 10ug/dL)	5%	10%	18%	12%	NA	7%

Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Office of Family Health, 1997-2001 (prenatal care, teen births, low birthweight). Teen births were calculated for Native American teens based on births for the five year period and denominator from the 2000 Census. Information based on self-reported race and ethnicity. Rhode Island Department of Health, Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program based on highest lead test result during calendar year 2002. Data for Native American children not reported because only 27 children were tested.

◆ Although much progress has been made on many health indicators, racial and ethnic disparities still exist for a number of child outcomes. Minority women are far more likely to have delayed obtaining prenatal care and are much more likely to have given birth while still teenagers.²⁵

◆ In 1999 in Rhode Island, 9% of White adults were uninsured as compared with 17% of Blacks, 14% of Asians/Pacific Islanders and 10% of Hispanics.²⁶ Comparable data for Rhode Island children are not available. Nationally, Hispanic children and poor children are the most likely to be uninsured.²⁷

Racial and Ethnic Disparities

Safety Outcomes, by Race and Ethnicity, Rhode Island

	WHITE	HISPANIC	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	ALL RACES
Juveniles at the Training School (per 1,000)	2.7	7.1	16.9	NA	NA	4.3
Children of Incarcerated Parents (per 1,000)	9.9	23.7	92.9	NA	NA	15.7
Children in Out of Home Placement (per 1,000)	3.6	5.6	19.6	2.5	11.4	4.6

Source: *Juveniles at the Training School*: Rhode Island KIDS COUNT analysis of Rhode Island Department of Children Youth and Families, based on children who passed through the RITS between 1/1/02-12/31/02. *Children of Incarcerated Parents*: Rhode Island KIDS COUNT analysis of data from the Rhode Island Department of Justice, 2002. *Children in Out-of-Home Placement*: Rhode Island KIDS COUNT analysis of data from the Department of Children Youth and Families RICHIST Database from December 2000, January 2002 and January 2003. All denominators based on children under age 18 by race from Census 2000. Information not reported for Native American and Asian children because one year of data does not produce statistically reliable rates.

◆ Racial and ethnic minority groups continue to be disproportionately represented in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Research shows that minority youth are more likely than White, non-Hispanic youth to be placed in secure detention, even when the type and severity of the offense is the same.²⁸ In the U.S., Black youth adjudicated for drug offenses with no prior admissions were incarcerated 48 times as often as their White counterparts. Similarly, Latino youth adjudicated for violent offenses remained in state institutions for 150 days longer than White youth adjudicated for the same offenses.²⁹

◆ National data indicate that poor families and families of color are more likely to have their child removed and placed in foster care. Once in foster care, children of color are more likely to remain there for longer periods of time and to experience multiple placements in different homes.³⁰


Education Outcomes, by Race and Ethnicity, Rhode Island

	WHITE	HISPANIC	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	ALL RACES
% of Children Attending Low Performing Schools	26%	82%	74%	63%	46%	39%
4th Grade Children Meeting the Standard for Reading						
<i>Basic Understanding</i>	83%	50%	52%	62%	58%	74%
<i>Analysis and Interpretation</i>	71%	32%	34%	42%	45%	60%
High School Graduation Rate	87%	72%	76%	83%	78%	84%
% of Adults Over Age 25 with a Bachelor's Degree or Higher	27%	9%	17%	36%	14%	26%

Source: *Attending Low Performing Schools*: Rhode Island KIDS COUNT analysis of Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. 2002 School Performance Categories, denominator is school enrollment by race 2001-2002 school year. *4th Grade Reading Scores*: Rhode Island State Assessment Program, Report of Student Performance by Demographic Characteristics, State Report Grade 4, Spring 2002 Data. *High School Graduation Rate*: Rhode Island Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. *Adult Educational Attainment*: Census 2000.

◆ Currently in Rhode Island, children of color are far more likely to attend low-performing schools than are White children. Rhode Island's Hispanic and Black children are more than three times as likely as White children to attend a low-performing school.³¹

◆ Children of color are more likely to be identified as needing special education. According to the *2000-2001 Biennial Performance Report of Children with Disabilities in Rhode Island*, a disproportionate number of Black, Hispanic, and Asian students were represented in special education placement.³²



Immigrant Children

◆ In 2001, Rhode Island was home to 8,476 children under age 18 who were born outside the United States, 4% of all children in the state.³³ This is likely to be an underestimate as immigrant children are among the most likely to be undercounted by population estimates. Between 1990 and 2000 in Rhode Island, the total immigrant population grew by 25%, increasing from 95,088 to 119,277.³⁴

◆ An additional 31,415 Rhode Island households with children under age 18 are headed by immigrants.³⁵ Children of immigrants are the fastest growing segment of the United States population under age 18.³⁶ Nationally, over half (52%) of all children of immigrants lived in families with incomes below 200% of the Federal Poverty threshold.³⁷

◆ Children of immigrants living in two-parent working families are substantially more likely to be low-income than their native-born counterparts. Lower wages, not employment levels, account for most of this income disparity.³⁸ Children of immigrants are more likely than children of native-born parents to be in fair or poor health and lack health insurance; live in families with problems affording food but receive no food stamps; and live in crowded housing but receive no housing assistance.³⁹

◆ In Rhode Island, 21% of immigrants (including those born in Puerto Rico) are poor compared with 11% of native born people.⁴⁰ Two out of three (65%) immigrants live in the core cities, of these two-thirds live in Providence and Central Falls.⁴¹ Immigrants tend to live in poorer neighborhoods within these cities and to live in more crowded housing units.⁴² Half (48%) of immigrants in Rhode Island are not naturalized citizens.⁴³

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