

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

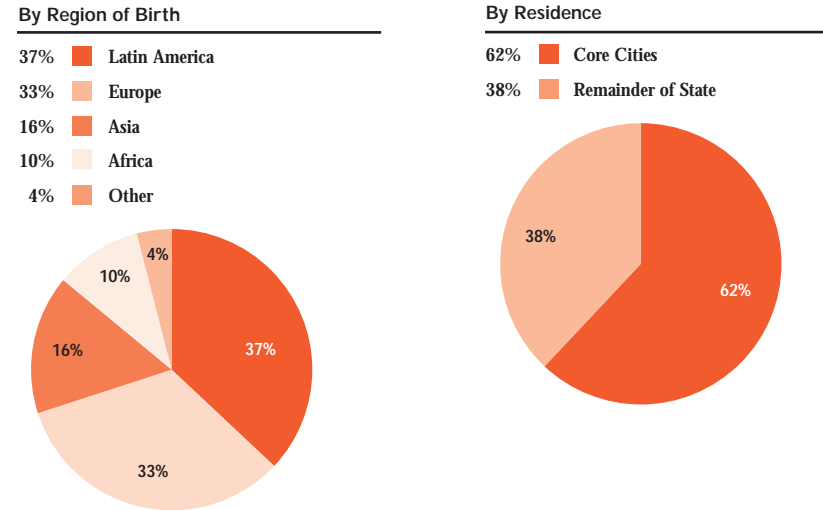
In Rhode Island, 73% of children in the state were White, non-Hispanic in 2000, compared to 84% in 1990.^{4,5} The number of children of color nearly doubled from 36,867 in 1990 to nearly

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.

References for Indicator

- ¹ Pollard, K. and O'Hare, W. (1999). *America's Racial and Ethnic Minorities*. Washington, DC: Population Reference Bureau.
- ² 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.
- ³ *America's Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being* (2002). Washington, DC: Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics.
- ^{4,6,8,12,13,14,15} U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census 2000.
- ^{5,7} U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1990 Census of the Population.
- ^{9,16} U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Survey, 2000 to 2002.
- ¹⁷ Edmonston, B. (May 2002). *A KIDS COUNT/PRB Special Report: The Undercount in the 2000 Census*. Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation.
- ¹⁰ Reardon-Anderson, J., et al (November 2002). *The Health and Well-Being of Children in Immigrant Families*. Washington, DC: The Urban Institute.
- ¹¹ *Speaking for America's Children: Child Advocates Identify Children's Issues and the 2002 State Priorities* (January 2002). Washington, DC: National Association of Child Advocates.