

# Child Population

## DEFINITION

*Child population* is the total number of children under age 18 and the percentage change between 2000 and 2010 in the total number of children under age 18.

## SIGNIFICANCE

According to the American Community Survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, there were 1,059,361 Rhode Island residents in 2019. Children under age 18 make up 19% of the population. Rhode Island's child population decreased from 247,822 in 2000 to 223,956 in 2010 and then further to an estimated 203,575 in 2019 (18% decrease from 2000 to 2019).<sup>1,2,3</sup> Between 2015 and 2019, there were 116,683 households with children under age 18 in Rhode Island, representing 28% of all households.<sup>4</sup> Twenty-six percent of Rhode Island children were under age five, 27% were ages five to nine, 29% were ages 10 to 14, and 18% were ages 15 to 17.<sup>5</sup>

In Rhode Island, between 2015 and 2019, 122,318 (59%) children under age 18 lived in married-couple households, 62,877 (30%) children lived in single-parent households, and 17,915 (9%) children lived with relatives, including grandparents. A total of 3,512 (2%) children lived with foster families or other non-relative heads of household.

There were 707 (<1%) children and youth under age 18 who lived in group quarters and 15 (<1%) youth who were householders or spouses.<sup>6,7,8</sup>

Rhode Island's children are diverse in race, ethnicity, language, and country of origin. Mirroring the national trend, the Hispanic child population in Rhode Island has grown since 2000, both in numbers and as a percentage of the child population. Hispanics make up 25% of children under age 18 in the United States and 25% of children under age 18 in Rhode Island.<sup>9,10,11</sup>

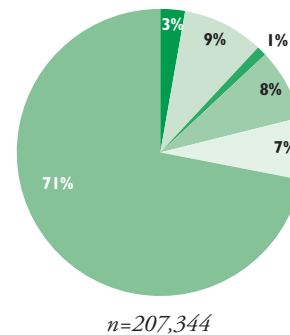
Between 2015 and 2019, there were 8,189 foreign-born children under the age of 18 living in Rhode Island, representing approximately 4% of the child population.<sup>12</sup> Of Rhode Island children ages five to 17, 77% speak only English at home, 17% speak Spanish, 4% speak other Indo-European languages, 2% speak Asian or Pacific Island languages, and 1% speak other languages at home.<sup>13</sup>

Sexual orientation and gender identity are other important facets of diversity among youth. According to the *2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey*, 11% of high school students in Rhode Island described themselves as lesbian, gay, or bisexual. This does not include students who responded "not sure" (5%). Among high school students, 1.5% described themselves as transgender, and 0.9% said they were "not sure."<sup>14</sup>

## Rhode Island Children Under Age 18, 2015-2019

### By Race/Ethnicity\*

3%	Asian
9%	Black
1%	Native American and Alaska Native
8%	Some Other Race
7%	Two or More Races
71%	White

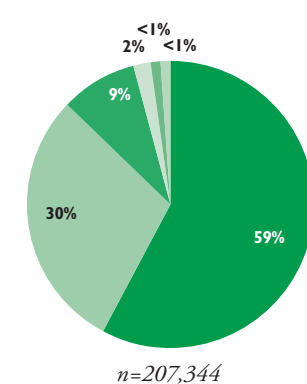


\*Hispanic children may be included in any race category. Of Rhode Island's 207,344 children, 52,348 (25%) were Hispanic.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019. Tables B01001A, B01001B, B01001C, B01001D, B01001E, B01001F, B01001G, and B01001I.

### By Family Structure

59%	Married-Couple**
30%	Single-Parent**
9%	Other Relatives
2%	Foster Family or Other Unrelated Household
<1%	Group Quarters
<1%	Child is Head of Household



\*\*Only includes children who are related to the head of household by birth or adoption.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019. Tables B09001, B09002, and B09018.

## Decennial Census 2020

◆ In 2020, the U.S. Census Bureau conducted its most recent decennial Census. When data are made available, the decennial Census count will be used to apportion the 435 members of the U.S. House of Representatives and to allocate federal program funding to each state for the following decade.<sup>15</sup> These federal funds support a wide array of programs that improve outcomes for children and families in Rhode Island.<sup>16</sup>

◆ Certain populations have been historically undercounted in the decennial Census, including young children under age five, immigrants, low-income populations, People of Color, people experiencing homelessness, and people in non-traditional households.<sup>17</sup>

Table 1.

Child Population, Rhode Island, 2000 and 2010

CITY/TOWN	2000 TOTAL POPULATION UNDER AGE 18	2010 TOTAL POPULATION UNDER AGE 18	CHANGE IN POPULATION UNDER AGE 18	% CHANGE IN POPULATION UNDER AGE 18
Barrington	4,745	4,597	-148	-3.1%
Bristol	4,399	3,623	-776	-17.6%
Burrillville	4,043	3,576	-467	-11.6%
Central Falls	5,531	5,644	113	2.0%
Charlestown	1,712	1,506	-206	-12.0%
Coventry	8,389	7,770	-619	-7.4%
Cranston	17,098	16,414	-684	-4.0%
Cumberland	7,690	7,535	-155	-2.0%
East Greenwich	3,564	3,436	-128	-3.6%
East Providence	10,546	9,177	-1,369	-13.0%
Exeter	1,589	1,334	-255	-16.0%
Foster	1,105	986	-119	-10.8%
Glocester	2,664	2,098	-566	-21.2%
Hopkinton	2,011	1,845	-166	-8.3%
Jamestown	1,238	1,043	-195	-15.8%
Johnston	5,906	5,480	-426	-7.2%
Lincoln	5,157	4,751	-406	-7.9%
Little Compton	780	654	-126	-16.2%
Middletown	4,328	3,652	-676	-15.6%
Narragansett	2,833	2,269	-564	-19.9%
New Shoreham	185	163	-22	-11.9%
Newport	5,199	4,083	-1,116	-21.5%
North Kingstown	6,848	6,322	-526	-7.7%
North Providence	5,936	5,514	-422	-7.1%
North Smithfield	2,379	2,456	77	3.2%
Pawtucket	18,151	16,575	-1,576	-8.7%
Portsmouth	4,329	3,996	-333	-7.7%
Providence	45,277	41,634	-3,643	-8.0%
Richmond	2,014	1,849	-165	-8.2%
Scituate	2,635	2,272	-363	-13.8%
Smithfield	4,019	3,625	-394	-9.8%
South Kingstown	6,284	5,416	-868	-13.8%
Tiverton	3,367	2,998	-369	-11.0%
Warren	2,454	1,940	-514	-20.9%
Warwick	18,780	15,825	-2,955	-15.7%
West Greenwich	1,444	1,477	33	2.3%
West Warwick	6,632	5,746	-886	-13.4%
Westerly	5,406	4,787	-619	-11.5%
Woonsocket	11,155	9,888	-1,267	-11.4%
Four Core Cities	80,114	73,741	-6,373	-8.0%
Remainder of State	167,708	150,215	-17,493	-10.4%
Rhode Island	247,822	223,956	-23,866	-9.6%

### Source of Data for Table/Methodology

U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 1 and Census 2010, Summary File 1.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

### References

- <sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2019. Table S0201.
- <sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1. Table DP-1.
- <sup>3</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010 Summary File 1. Table DP-1.
- <sup>4</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019. Table DP02.
- <sup>5</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019. Table B01001.
- <sup>6</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019. Table B09002.
- <sup>7</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019. Table B09018.
- <sup>8</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019. Table B09001.
- <sup>9</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Redistricting Summary File. Table QT-PL.
- <sup>10</sup> O'Hare, W. (2011). *The changing child population of the United States: Analysis of data from the 2010 Census*. Baltimore, MD: The Annie E. Casey Foundation.
- <sup>11</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019. Table B01001I.
- <sup>12</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019. Table B05003.
- <sup>13</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015-2019. Table B16007.
- <sup>14</sup> 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Rhode Island Department of Health.
- <sup>15,17</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2018). *2020 Census: Counting everyone once, only once, and in the right place*. Retrieved January 15, 2021, from www2.census.gov
- <sup>16</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2017). *Uses of Census Bureau data in federal funds distribution*. Retrieved January 13, 2021, from www.census.gov/library/working-papers/