

Family and Community

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 1,055,173 Rhode Island residents in 2014. Children under age 19 make up 20% of the population. Between 2000 and 2014, Rhode Island's child population decreased by 14% from 247,822 to 212,555.^{1,2} Between 2010 and 2014, there were 120,413 households with children under age 18 in Rhode Island, representing almost one-third (29%) of all households.³ 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 17.⁴

In Rhode Island between 2010 and 2014, 125,687 (58%) children under age 18 lived in married-couple households with their parents, 70,567 (32%) children lived in single-parent households, and 17,299 (8%) children lived with relatives, including grandparents and other relatives. A total of 2,953 (1%) children lived with foster families or other non-relative heads of

household. There were 878 (<1%) children and youth under age 18 who lived in group quarters and 42 (<1%) youth who were householders or spouses.^{5,6,7}

Rhode Island's children are diverse in race, ethnic background, language, and country of origin. Mirroring national trends, the number of Hispanic children in Rhode Island has grown since 2000, both in numbers and as a percentage of the child population. Hispanics now make up 24% of children under age 18 in the United States and 22% of children under age 18 in Rhode Island.^{8,9,10,11}

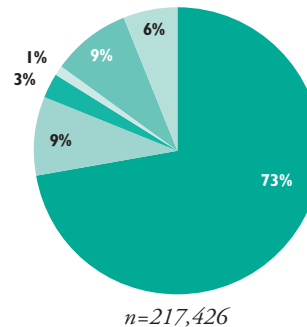
Between 2010 and 2014, there were 8,578 foreign-born children under the age of 18 living in Rhode Island, representing approximately 4% of the child population.¹² Of Rhode Island children ages five to 17, 77% speak only English at home, 16% speak Spanish, 4% speak another Indo-European language, 2% speak an Asian or Pacific Island language, and 1% speak some other language at home.¹³

Sexual orientation is another important facet of diversity among youth. According to the *2015 Youth Risk Behavior Survey*, 9.8% of high school students in Rhode Island described themselves as lesbian, gay, or bisexual. This does not include students who responded "not sure" when asked about their sexual orientation.¹⁴

Rhode Island Children Under Age 18, 2010-2014

By Race/Ethnicity*

73%	White
9%	Black
3%	Asian
1%	American Indian and Alaska Native
9%	Some Other Race
6%	Two or More Races

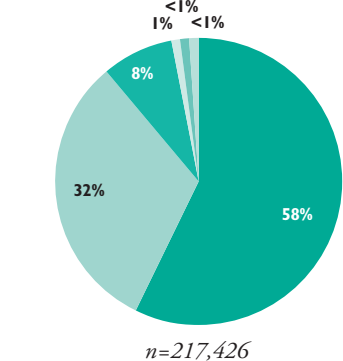


*Hispanic children may be included in any race category. Of Rhode Island's 217,426 children, 47,663 (22%) were Hispanic.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010-2014. Tables B01001, B01001A, B01001B, B01001C, B01001D, B01001E, B01001F, B01001G, and B01001I.

By Family Structure

58%	Married-Couple**
32%	Single-Parent**
8%	Other Relatives
1%	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, 2010-2014. Table B09001, B09002, and B09018.

◆ In 2014, children under age 18 made up 20% of Rhode Island's population. Of the 212,555 children under age 18 in Rhode Island in 2014, 51% were male and 49% were female.¹⁵

◆ Between 2010 and 2014, 60% of children in Rhode Island lived in owner-occupied housing units and 40% lived in renter-occupied units.¹⁶

◆ Of children ages three to 17 enrolled in school in Rhode Island between 2010 and 2014, 84% were enrolled in public schools and 16% were enrolled in private schools.¹⁷

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

^{1,15} U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014. Table S0201.

² U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1. Table DP-1.

³ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010-2014. Table S1101.

^{4,9} U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010-2014. Table B01001.

⁵ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010-2014. Table B09002.

⁶ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010-2014. Table B09018.

⁷ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010-2014. Table B09001.

⁸ U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Redistricting Summary File. Table QT-PL.

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010-2014. Table B01001I.

¹² U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010-2014. Table B05003.

¹³ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010-2014. Table B16007.

¹⁴ Rhode Island Department of Health, *2015 Youth Risk Behavior Survey*.

^{16,17} U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010-2014. Table S0901.

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

According to the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey, there were 196,254 children living with one or more parents in Rhode Island between 2010 and 2014. Of these, 36% (70,567) were living with an unmarried parent, up from 32% of children between 2005 and 2009.^{1,2}

Children living in single-parent families are more likely to live in poverty than children living in two-parent families. Single-parent families have only one potential wage earner, compared with the two potential wage earners in two-parent families.^{3,4}

Between 2010 and 2014, 77% of children living in poverty in Rhode Island were living in single-parent families. Children in single-parent families in Rhode Island were nearly six times more likely to be living in poverty than those in married-couple families. Between 2010 and 2014 in Rhode Island, 40% of children in single-parent

households lived in poverty, compared to 7% of children in married-couple households.⁵

The financial hardship and time constraints experienced by many single parents explain some of the differences in well-being between the children in single-parent households and those in two-parent households.^{6,7} Regardless of parents’ race and level of educational attainment, children who reside in single-parent households (whether due to divorce or the parents never having been married) are at an increased risk for low academic achievement and low levels of social and emotional well-being.^{8,9} Compared to children in married families, children in single-parent families are more likely to lack health insurance coverage, drop out of school, disconnect from the labor force, and become teen parents.^{10,11} Regardless of whether children grow up with one or two parents, parenting quality is an important predictor of children’s well-being.¹²

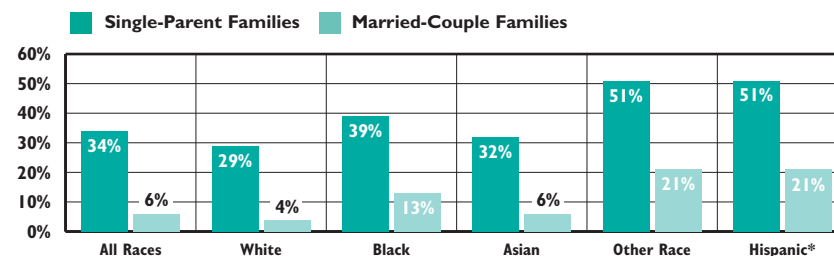
Single-Parent Families		
	2004	2014
RI	39%	39%
US	31%	35%
National Rank*		47th
New England Rank**		6th

*1st is best; 50th is worst

**1st is best; 6th is worst

The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, datacenter.kidscount.org

Families With Children Under Age 18 and Income Below the Poverty Threshold by Race & Ethnicity, Rhode Island, 2010-2014



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010-2014. Tables B17010, B17010A, B17010B, B17010D, B17010F, B17010I. *Hispanics may be in any race category.

◆ **Hispanic single-parent families in Rhode Island are more than one and a half times as likely as White single-parent families to live in poverty. Hispanic, Other race, and Black married-couple families are more likely than White and Asian married-couple families in Rhode Island to live in poverty.**¹³

Economic Well-Being and Family Structure

◆ **Family structure influences children’s social, emotional, and cognitive development. Children born into married parent families have a higher rate of economic, social, and psychological stability compared to children in single-parent families. Children living in single-parent households are more likely to face educational challenges and are more likely to live in poverty than children in married-couple families.**¹⁴

◆ **Approximately one-third (35%) of cohabitating parents still live together five years after the child’s birth and less than half of them are married.**¹⁵

◆ **More than half of unmarried births occur among cohabiting parents. Although there are variations by race, ethnicity, age, and poverty status, 58% of non-marital births in the U.S. between 2006 and 2010 were to cohabiting parents, compared with 40% in 2002.**¹⁶

Children in Single-Parent Families

Table 2.

Children's Living Arrangements, Rhode Island, 2010

CITY/TOWN	CHILDREN LIVING IN HOUSEHOLDS	CHILDREN WHO ARE A HOUSEHOLDER OR SPOUSE		CHILDREN LIVING WITH NON-RELATIVES		CHILDREN LIVING WITH OTHER RELATIVES		CHILDREN LIVING IN MARRIED-COUPLE FAMILIES		CHILDREN LIVING WITH GRANDPARENTS		CHILDREN LIVING IN SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Barrington	4,597	2	<1%	31	1%	15	0%	3,871	84%	85	2%	593	13%
Bristol	3,621	1	<1%	37	1%	51	1%	2,564	71%	225	6%	743	21%
Burrillville	3,548	0	0%	110	3%	26	1%	2,353	66%	232	7%	827	23%
Central Falls	5,634	3	<1%	90	2%	209	4%	2,159	38%	429	8%	2,744	49%
Charlestown	1,506	0	0%	15	1%	20	1%	1,059	70%	106	7%	306	20%
Coventry	7,762	2	<1%	148	2%	72	1%	5,343	69%	549	7%	1,648	21%
Cranston	16,262	5	<1%	226	1%	324	2%	10,462	64%	1,027	6%	4,218	26%
Cumberland	7,535	0	0%	97	1%	53	1%	5,651	75%	334	4%	1,400	19%
East Greenwich	3,436	0	0%	21	1%	13	0%	2,889	84%	71	2%	442	13%
East Providence	9,100	2	<1%	127	1%	154	2%	5,329	59%	675	7%	2,813	31%
Exeter	1,300	0	0%	23	2%	16	1%	996	77%	82	6%	183	14%
Foster	986	0	0%	24	2%	10	1%	741	75%	69	7%	142	14%
Glocester	2,098	0	0%	39	2%	26	1%	1,581	75%	137	7%	315	15%
Hopkinton	1,845	0	0%	46	2%	24	1%	1,327	72%	113	6%	335	18%
Jamestown	1,043	0	0%	3	0%	5	0%	799	77%	49	5%	187	18%
Johnston	5,473	2	<1%	90	2%	114	2%	3,591	66%	380	7%	1,296	24%
Lincoln	4,743	3	<1%	61	1%	52	1%	3,270	69%	211	4%	1,146	24%
Little Compton	654	0	0%	5	1%	1	0%	528	81%	42	6%	78	12%
Middletown	3,634	3	<1%	45	1%	38	1%	2,606	72%	166	5%	776	21%
Narragansett	2,240	2	<1%	35	2%	25	1%	1,533	68%	105	5%	540	24%
New Shoreham	163	0	0%	1	1%	1	1%	111	68%	4	2%	46	28%
Newport	4,060	2	<1%	66	2%	56	1%	2,034	50%	204	5%	1,698	42%
North Kingstown	6,322	1	<1%	57	1%	49	1%	4,639	73%	247	4%	1,329	21%
North Providence	5,481	0	0%	81	1%	131	2%	3,266	60%	378	7%	1,625	30%
North Smithfield	2,456	0	0%	40	2%	13	1%	1,831	75%	96	4%	476	19%
Pawtucket	16,550	17	<1%	239	1%	460	3%	7,488	45%	1,228	7%	7,118	43%
Portsmouth	3,940	2	<1%	47	1%	24	1%	2,977	76%	172	4%	718	18%
Providence	41,497	41	<1%	632	2%	1,663	4%	16,931	41%	3,094	7%	19,136	46%
Richmond	1,836	0	0%	32	2%	16	1%	1,437	78%	104	6%	247	13%
Scituate	2,272	0	0%	24	1%	22	1%	1,731	76%	139	6%	356	16%
Smithfield	3,615	2	<1%	46	1%	29	1%	2,802	78%	164	5%	572	16%
South Kingstown	5,364	0	0%	81	2%	31	1%	3,951	74%	248	5%	1,053	20%
Tiverton	2,998	1	<1%	41	1%	20	1%	2,109	70%	162	5%	665	22%
Warren	1,935	4	<1%	42	2%	19	1%	1,124	58%	136	7%	610	32%
Warwick	15,795	3	<1%	308	2%	223	1%	10,476	66%	1,109	7%	3,676	23%
West Greenwich	1,468	2	<1%	22	1%	13	1%	1,131	77%	79	5%	221	15%
West Warwick	5,746	1	<1%	151	3%	121	2%	3,118	54%	365	6%	1,990	35%
Westerly	4,787	4	<1%	82	2%	83	2%	3,012	63%	269	6%	1,337	28%
Woonsocket	9,842	10	<1%	203	2%	176	2%	4,237	43%	683	7%	4,533	46%
Four Core Cities	73,523	71	<1%	1,164	2%	2,508	3%	30,815	42%	5,434	7%	33,531	46%
Remainder of State	149,621	44	<1%	2,304	2%	1,890	1%	102,242	68%	8,534	6%	34,607	23%
Rhode Island	223,144	115	<1%	3,468	2%	4,398	2%	133,057	60%	13,968	6%	68,138	31%

Source of Data for Table/Methodology

U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010.

The denominator is the number of children under age 18 living in family households according to Census 2010. 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 include others not related to the householder.

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

References

- ¹ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010-2014. Table B09002.
- ² U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2005-2009. Table B09002.
- ^{3,6,12} Waldfogel, J., Craigie, T., & Brooks-Gunn, J. (2010). Fragile families and child wellbeing. *The Future of Children*, 20(2), 87-112.
- ⁴⁷ Child Trends Data Bank. (2015). *Family structure*. Retrieved January 8, 2016, from www.childtrendsdatabank.org
- ⁵ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010-2014. Table B17006.
- ^{8,9} Barajas, M. S. (2011). Academic achievement of children in single parent homes: A critical review. *The Hilltop Review*, 5(1), 13-21.
- ¹⁰ Blackwell, D. L. (2010). Family structure and children's health in the United States: Findings from the National Health Interview Survey, 2001-2007. *Vital and Health Statistics*, 10(246). Hyattsville, MD: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- ¹¹ Mather, M. (2010). *U.S. children in single-mother families*. Washington, DC: Population Reference Bureau.
- ¹³ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010-2014. Tables B17010, B17010A, B17010B, B17010D, B17010F, B17010I.

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Grandparents Caring for Grandchildren

DEFINITION

Grandparents caring for grandchildren is the percentage of family households in which a grandparent is financially responsible for food, shelter, clothing, child care, etc. for any or all grandchildren under age 18 living in the household.

SIGNIFICANCE

One in ten children in the United States lives with a grandparent. The number of children living with grandparents increased slowly over the last decade, rising sharply at the start of the recession. Black children are more likely to be cared for primarily by a grandparent than White, Hispanic, or Asian children.¹

Grandparents can provide continuity and family support for children in vulnerable families. Children may be in grandparent care because of parental divorce or economic challenges or they have a parent who is unemployed, incarcerated, ill, struggling with substance abuse, or coping with other problems.²

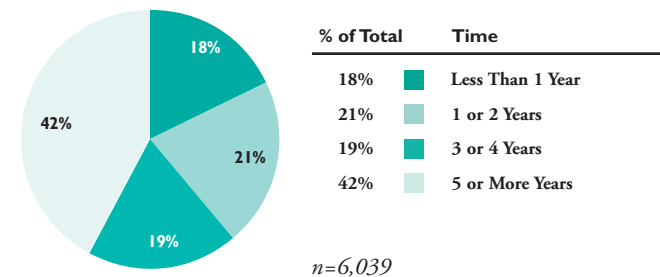
Grandparents who are financially responsible for their grandchildren have higher rates of poverty compared to other adults. Twenty-two percent of grandparent caregivers live below the poverty line, compared to 10% of the population age 50 and over.^{3,4}

Many grandparent and other relative caregivers have informal custody arrangements and are not involved with child welfare agencies, often receiving fewer services than traditional foster parents.⁵ Compared to the general population, children in informal kinship care are less likely to be covered by health insurance and are more likely to have physical and mental disabilities.⁶

Grandparents and other relative caregivers often are isolated and lack information about the support services, resources, programs, benefits, laws, and policies available to them.⁷ Nearly all children in kinship care are eligible for cash assistance through Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) regardless of their household's income level, yet children in informal custody arrangements are much less likely to receive these payments.⁸

Grandparent caregivers are at risk for poor physical and mental health. They may have difficulty enrolling children in school and/or seeking health insurance or medical care for the children. Many caregivers do not pursue the required legal process required for permanent status such as adoption or guardianship in order to avoid strain on family relationships.^{9,10,11} Grandparents make up the largest percentage of relative caregivers, but aunts, uncles, cousins, siblings, and other relative caregivers may face similar obstacles.¹²

Rhode Island Grandparents Financially Responsible for Their Grandchildren, by Length of Time Responsible, 2010-2014



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010-2014. Table B10050.

- ◆ Between 2010 and 2014, there were a total of 13,012 children in Rhode Island living in households headed by grandparents.¹³ During this time period, there were 6,039 grandparents who were financially responsible for their grandchildren, 61% of whom had been financially responsible for three or more years.¹⁴
- ◆ In 2010, 6% (13,968) of all children in Rhode Island lived with a grandparent caregiver and 2% (4,398) lived with other relatives.¹⁵
- ◆ Children in informal kinship care (i.e., placed with relatives without the involvement of a child welfare agency) are more likely to live in poverty than children living with their parents. Nationally, over one-third (38%) of children in public and private kinship care live in poverty. Only 42% of eligible children in kinship care receive Medicaid coverage.¹⁶
- ◆ Rhode Island regulations state that the Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) must give priority to relatives when placing a child in out-of-home care.¹⁷ On December 31, 2015, there were 747 children under age 19 in DCYF care who were in out-of-home placements with a grandparent or other relative. These children made up 37% of all children in out-of-home placements in Rhode Island.¹⁸
- ◆ The federal *Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act* helps children and youth in foster care establish permanent families through subsidized guardianship and adoption.¹⁹ Rhode Island is one of 31 states with a Guardianship Assistance Program that provides financial assistance payments to grandparents and other relative caregivers who assume legal guardianship.²⁰

Grandparents Caring for Grandchildren

Table 3.

Children's Living Arrangements, Rhode Island, 2010

CITY/TOWN	CHILDREN LIVING IN HOUSEHOLDS	CHILDREN WHO ARE A HOUSEHOLDER OR SPOUSE		CHILDREN LIVING WITH NON-RELATIVES		CHILDREN LIVING WITH OTHER RELATIVES		CHILDREN LIVING IN MARRIED IN COUPLE FAMILIES		CHILDREN LIVING IN SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES		CHILDREN LIVING WITH GRANDPARENTS	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Barrington	4,597	2	<1%	31	1%	15	0%	3,871	84%	593	13%	85	2%
Bristol	3,621	1	<1%	37	1%	51	1%	2,564	71%	743	21%	225	6%
Burrillville	3,548	0	0%	110	3%	26	1%	2,353	66%	827	23%	232	7%
Central Falls	5,634	3	<1%	90	2%	209	4%	2,159	38%	2,744	49%	429	8%
Charlestown	1,506	0	0%	15	1%	20	1%	1,059	70%	306	20%	106	7%
Coventry	7,762	2	<1%	148	2%	72	1%	5,343	69%	1,648	21%	549	7%
Cranston	16,262	5	<1%	226	1%	324	2%	10,462	64%	4,218	26%	1,027	6%
Cumberland	7,535	0	0%	97	1%	53	1%	5,651	75%	1,400	19%	334	4%
East Greenwich	3,436	0	0%	21	1%	13	0%	2,889	84%	442	13%	71	2%
East Providence	9,100	2	<1%	127	1%	154	2%	5,329	59%	2,813	31%	675	7%
Exeter	1,300	0	0%	23	2%	16	1%	996	77%	183	14%	82	6%
Foster	986	0	0%	24	2%	10	1%	741	75%	142	14%	69	7%
Glocester	2,098	0	0%	39	2%	26	1%	1,581	75%	315	15%	137	7%
Hopkinton	1,845	0	0%	46	2%	24	1%	1,327	72%	335	18%	113	6%
Jamestown	1,043	0	0%	3	0%	5	0%	799	77%	187	18%	49	5%
Johnston	5,473	2	<1%	90	2%	114	2%	3,591	66%	1,296	24%	380	7%
Lincoln	4,743	3	<1%	61	1%	52	1%	3,270	69%	1,146	24%	211	4%
Little Compton	654	0	0%	5	1%	1	0%	528	81%	78	12%	42	6%
Middletown	3,634	3	<1%	45	1%	38	1%	2,606	72%	776	21%	166	5%
Narragansett	2,240	2	<1%	35	2%	25	1%	1,533	68%	540	24%	105	5%
New Shoreham	163	0	0%	1	1%	1	1%	111	68%	46	28%	4	2%
Newport	4,060	2	<1%	66	2%	56	1%	2,034	50%	1,698	42%	204	5%
North Kingstown	6,322	1	<1%	57	1%	49	1%	4,639	73%	1,329	21%	247	4%
North Providence	5,481	0	0%	81	1%	131	2%	3,266	60%	1,625	30%	378	7%
North Smithfield	2,456	0	0%	40	2%	13	1%	1,831	75%	476	19%	96	4%
Pawtucket	16,550	17	<1%	239	1%	460	3%	7,488	45%	7,118	43%	1,228	7%
Portsmouth	3,940	2	<1%	47	1%	24	1%	2,977	76%	718	18%	172	4%
Providence	41,497	41	<1%	632	2%	1,663	4%	16,931	41%	19,136	46%	3,094	7%
Richmond	1,836	0	0%	32	2%	16	1%	1,437	78%	247	13%	104	6%
Scituate	2,272	0	0%	24	1%	22	1%	1,731	76%	356	16%	139	6%
Smithfield	3,615	2	<1%	46	1%	29	1%	2,802	78%	572	16%	164	5%
South Kingstown	5,364	0	0%	81	2%	31	1%	3,951	74%	1,053	20%	248	5%
Tiverton	2,998	1	<1%	41	1%	20	1%	2,109	70%	665	22%	162	5%
Warren	1,935	4	<1%	42	2%	19	1%	1,124	58%	610	32%	136	7%
Warwick	15,795	3	<1%	308	2%	223	1%	10,476	66%	3,676	23%	1,109	7%
West Greenwich	1,468	2	<1%	22	1%	13	1%	1,131	77%	221	15%	79	5%
West Warwick	5,746	1	<1%	151	3%	121	2%	3,118	54%	1,990	35%	365	6%
Westerly	4,787	4	<1%	82	2%	83	2%	3,012	63%	1,337	28%	269	6%
Woonsocket	9,842	10	<1%	203	2%	176	2%	4,237	43%	4,533	46%	683	7%
Four Core Cities	73,523	71	<1%	1,164	2%	2,508	3%	30,815	42%	33,531	46%	5,434	7%
Remainder of State	149,621	44	<1%	2,304	2%	1,890	1%	102,242	68%	34,607	23%	8,534	6%
Rhode Island	223,144	115	<1%	3,468	2%	4,398	2%	133,057	60%	68,138	31%	13,968	6%

Source of Data for Table/Methodology

U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010.

The denominator is the number of children under age 18 living in family households according to Census 2010. 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 include others not related to the householder.

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

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- ¹¹ Vandivere, S., Yrausquin, A., Allen, T., Malm, K., & McKlinton, A. (2012). *Children in nonparental care: A review of the literature and analysis of data gaps*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation.
- ^{12,13} U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010-2014. Table B09018.

(continued on page 170)

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 also has an impact on his child's development, this indicator uses maternal education level because a significant number of birth records lack information on paternal education level.

SIGNIFICANCE

Parental educational attainment can have an impact on many aspects of child well-being, including children's health and health-related behaviors, children's access to sufficient educational resources, and the level of education they will ultimately achieve. Children of less educated parents are less likely to succeed in school, more likely to be poor for at least half of their lives from birth through age 17, and more likely to be in poor health.¹²

Infant mortality rates increase as mother's education levels decrease.^{3,4} For example, between 2010-2014, Rhode Island mothers with a high school degree or less had a higher infant mortality rate (6.1 per 1,000) than mothers with more education (4.8 per 1,000 births).⁵

Children of more highly educated parents participate in early learning programs and home literacy activities more frequently, enter school with higher levels of academic skills, and, on average,

earn higher reading and math test scores. Increasing maternal education can improve children's school readiness, language and academic skills.^{6,7} Increases in education levels also have been linked to improved health, better employment opportunities, and higher earnings.⁸ Higher levels of parental education can decrease the likelihood that a child will live in poverty.⁹ Women with bachelor's degrees in Rhode Island earn more than twice as much as those with less than a high school diploma.¹⁰

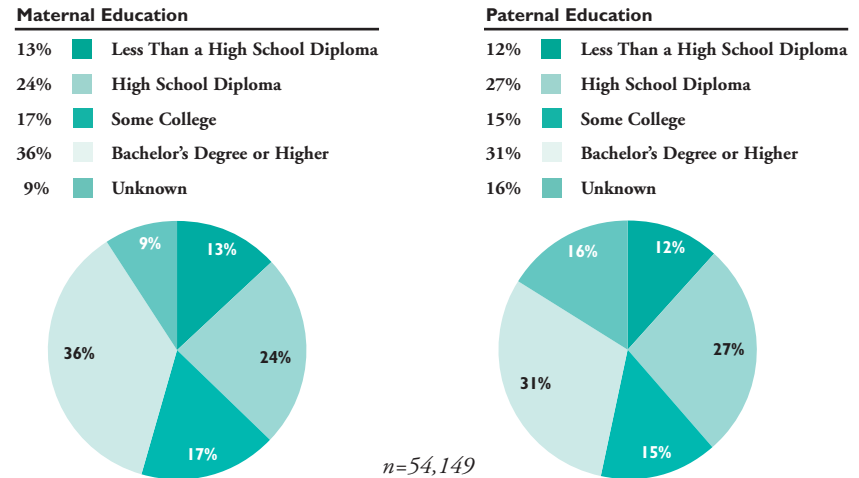
Between 2010 and 2014, 13% of Rhode Island births were to mothers with less than a high school diploma and 36% were to mothers with a bachelor's degree or higher.¹¹ Nationally, mothers with infants are more educated than ever before. In 2013, 12% of all U.S. births were to mothers with less than a high school diploma, and 63% were to mothers with at least some college education.¹²

Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma

CITY/TOWN	% OF CHILDREN
Central Falls	36%
Pawtucket	17%
Providence	23%
Woonsocket	20%
Four Core Cities	22%
Remainder of State	6%
Rhode Island	13%

Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Hospital Discharge Database, 2010-2014.

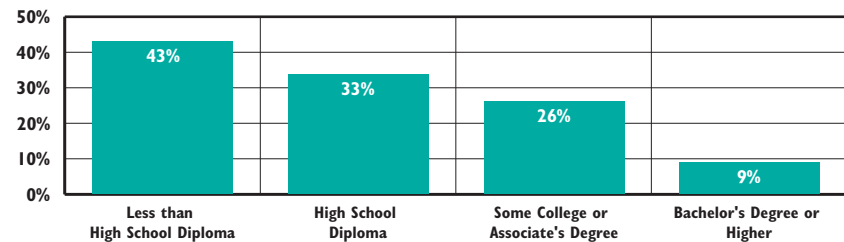
Births by Parental Education Levels, Rhode Island, 2010-2014



Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, Hospital Discharge Database, 2010-2014.

◆ In Rhode Island between 2010 and 2014, 37% of all infants were born to mothers with a high school diploma or less, and 39% were born to fathers with a high school diploma or less (compared with 39% for both mothers and fathers from 2009-2013).¹³

Poverty Rates for Families Headed by Single Females by Educational Attainment, Rhode Island, 2010-2014



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010-2014. Table S1702.

◆ The poverty rate among families headed by single females is related to the mother's educational level. In Rhode Island between 2010 and 2014, 43% of families headed by single females with less than a high school diploma were poor, compared with 9% of those with a bachelor's degree or higher.¹⁴

Table 4.

Births by Education Level of Mother, Rhode Island, 2010-2014

CITY/TOWN	TOTAL # OF BIRTHS	BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR ABOVE		SOME COLLEGE		HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA		LESS THAN HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Barrington	503	393	78%	44	9%	31	6%	6	1%
Bristol	778	403	52%	154	20%	145	19%	34	4%
Burrillville	632	216	34%	151	24%	179	28%	42	7%
Central Falls	1,619	121	7%	209	13%	527	33%	588	36%
Charlestown	260	116	45%	58	22%	48	18%	16	6%
Coventry	1,417	641	45%	322	23%	283	20%	86	6%
Cranston	3,887	1,713	44%	730	19%	852	22%	310	8%
Cumberland	1,613	890	55%	284	18%	238	15%	68	4%
East Greenwich	552	386	70%	64	12%	59	11%	10	2%
East Providence	2,453	1,018	42%	444	18%	619	25%	181	7%
Exeter	256	127	50%	35	14%	55	21%	25	10%
Foster	163	70	43%	36	22%	35	21%	6	4%
Glocester	342	165	48%	71	21%	61	18%	16	5%
Hopkinton	357	151	42%	81	23%	82	23%	23	6%
Jamestown	117	81	69%	10	9%	8	7%	2	2%
Johnston	1,282	521	41%	265	21%	303	24%	94	7%
Lincoln	901	450	50%	185	21%	156	17%	54	6%
Little Compton	79	44	56%	12	15%	15	19%	2	3%
Middletown	834	440	53%	138	17%	160	19%	36	4%
Narragansett	373	210	56%	64	17%	49	13%	13	3%
New Shoreham	56	30	54%	10	18%	12	21%	2	4%
Newport	1,295	609	47%	156	12%	248	19%	143	11%
North Kingstown	1,020	576	56%	151	15%	159	16%	53	5%
North Providence	1,582	667	42%	347	22%	358	23%	88	6%
North Smithfield	412	217	53%	74	18%	77	19%	19	5%
Pawtucket	4,941	1,151	23%	881	18%	1,491	30%	838	17%
Portsmouth	573	333	58%	106	18%	85	15%	13	2%
Providence	12,890	2,937	23%	1,916	15%	3,624	28%	2,995	23%
Richmond	348	190	55%	54	16%	59	17%	15	4%
Scituate	331	180	54%	67	20%	56	17%	9	3%
Smithfield	593	365	62%	83	14%	91	15%	18	3%
South Kingstown	897	517	58%	130	14%	128	14%	47	5%
Tiverton	528	234	44%	97	18%	113	21%	25	5%
Warren	458	180	39%	95	21%	114	25%	42	9%
Warwick	3,831	1,833	48%	770	20%	766	20%	221	6%
West Greenwich	241	118	49%	50	21%	47	20%	9	4%
West Warwick	1,789	532	30%	364	20%	535	30%	238	13%
Westerly	959	346	36%	208	22%	259	27%	78	8%
Woonsocket	2,946	504	17%	493	17%	1,018	35%	603	20%
Unknown	41	25	NA	6	NA	5	NA	1	NA
Four Core Cities	22,396	4,713	21%	3,499	16%	6,660	30%	5,024	22%
Remainder of State	31,712	14,962	47%	5,910	19%	6,485	20%	2,044	6%
Rhode Island	54,149	19,700	36%	9,415	17%	13,150	24%	7,069	13%

Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, Hospital Discharge Database, 2010-2014. Data are self-reported and reported by the mother's place of residence, not the place of the infant's birth.

Percentages may not sum to 100% for all communities and the state because the number and percentage of births with unknown parental education levels are not included in this table. Between 2010 and 2014, maternal education levels were unknown for 4,815 births (9%).

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

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(continued on page 170)

Racial and Ethnic Diversity

DEFINITION

Racial and ethnic diversity is the percentage of children under age 18 by racial and ethnic categories as defined by the U.S. Census. Racial and ethnic categories are chosen by the head of household or person completing the Census form.

SIGNIFICANCE

Racial and ethnic diversity has increased in the United States over the last several decades and is projected to rise in the future.¹ Since 2000, all of the growth in the child population in the U.S. has been among groups other than non-Hispanic Whites.² In Rhode Island, the non-Hispanic White child population declined by 21% between 2000 and 2010, while the Hispanic child population grew by 31%.³ In 2014, 52% of all U.S. children were non-Hispanic White.⁴ By 2023, more than half of all children in the U.S. will be children of color.⁵

In 2010, 64% of children in Rhode Island were non-Hispanic White, down from 73% in 2000. The number of minority children grew by about 13,000 between 2000 and 2010. The number of non-Hispanic White children dropped by over 37,000 during the same period.⁶

In 2010 in Rhode Island, 72% of children under age 18 were White, 8% were Black or African American,

3% were Asian, less than 1% were American Indian or Alaska Native, 9% of children were identified as Some other race, and 7% as Two or more races. In 2010, 21% of children living in Rhode Island were Hispanic.⁷

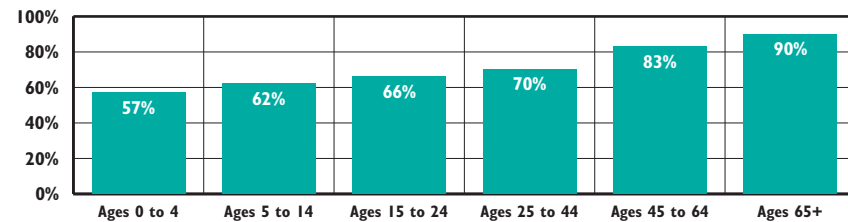
More than two-thirds (67%) of all minority children in Rhode Island live in Rhode Island's four core cities of Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket. Almost three-quarters (74%) of children living in the four core cities are minority children.⁸

Between 2010 and 2014, there were 8,578 foreign-born children living in Rhode Island, 31% of whom were naturalized U.S. citizens.⁹ Of Rhode Island's immigrant children, 22% were born in Central or South America, 25% were born in the Caribbean, 24% were born in Asia, 17% were born in Africa, 10% were born in Europe, and 2% were born in North America (Canada, Bermuda, or Mexico).¹⁰

Between 2010 and 2014, 23% of children between the ages of five and 17 living in Rhode Island spoke a language other than English at home, 95% of whom spoke English well or very well.¹¹

Diversity presents both opportunities and challenges to schools, child care providers, health care providers, social service agencies and other community organizations, in terms of adapting current practices to meet the needs of a changing population.¹²

Percent of Population Identified as Non-Hispanic White, by Age, Rhode Island, 2014



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates, 2014.

- ◆ Young children in Rhode Island are less likely to be identified as non-Hispanic White than any other age group. Fifty-seven percent of Rhode Island children under age five identify as non-Hispanic White, compared with 70% of adults ages 25 to 44 and 90% of people age 65 or over.¹³
- ◆ The median age of Hispanic Rhode Islanders in 2014 was 26 years, compared with 45 years for White Rhode Islanders, 34 years for Native American Rhode Islanders, 32 years for Black Rhode Islanders, 31 years for Asian Rhode Islanders, and 20 years for Rhode Islanders who identify as Two or more races.¹⁴
- ◆ Ninety-six percent of children in Rhode Island were born in the U.S.¹⁵ Twenty-six percent of children in Rhode Island live in immigrant families (either they are foreign-born or they have at least one parent who is foreign-born); the U.S. rate is 24%.¹⁶ Nearly all (98%) children in Rhode Island immigrant families have parents who arrived in this country more than five years ago.¹⁷
- ◆ Nineteen percent of Rhode Island children in non-immigrant families are poor, compared with 21% of children in immigrant families.¹⁸ Two-thirds (68%) of Rhode Island's poor children live in families with U.S.-born parents.¹⁹
- ◆ Limited English proficiency can be a barrier to employment opportunities, higher earnings, access to health care, and parental engagement with education.²⁰ Fifteen percent of Rhode Island children in immigrant families live in linguistically-isolated households, meaning no one 14 years or older either speaks only English or speaks English "very well."²¹

Table 5.

Child Population, by Race and Ethnicity, Rhode Island, 2010

CITY/TOWN	UNDER AGE 18 BY RACE AND ETHNICITY								2010 POPULATION UNDER AGE 18
	HISPANIC OR LATINO	WHITE	BLACK	AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE	ASIAN	NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND OTHER PACIFIC ISLANDER	SOME OTHER RACE	TWO OR MORE RACES	
Barrington	154	4,096	22	8	163	0	13	141	4,597
Bristol	130	3,298	43	4	40	0	3	105	3,623
Burrillville	115	3,310	32	2	12	0	4	101	3,576
Central Falls	3,950	747	492	17	20	2	179	237	5,644
Charlestown	46	1,331	8	50	16	0	1	54	1,506
Coventry	312	7,065	64	19	77	0	14	219	7,770
Cranston	2,966	10,819	693	48	1,075	15	73	725	16,414
Cumberland	542	6,348	154	7	204	3	31	246	7,535
East Greenwich	106	3,014	26	5	174	0	6	105	3,436
East Providence	799	6,619	619	42	142	1	281	674	9,177
Exeter	66	1,216	7	7	10	0	3	25	1,334
Foster	24	913	14	1	16	0	0	18	986
Glocester	63	1,942	13	2	24	0	7	47	2,098
Hopkinton	48	1,690	7	15	16	0	3	66	1,845
Jamestown	36	947	4	1	8	0	2	45	1,043
Johnston	640	4,364	148	1	135	0	22	170	5,480
Lincoln	353	3,885	114	7	164	0	25	203	4,751
Little Compton	18	606	8	1	6	3	2	10	654
Middletown	295	2,779	159	10	124	3	20	262	3,652
Narragansett	91	1,998	30	32	16	0	9	93	2,269
New Shoreham	10	149	1	0	0	0	0	3	163
Newport	703	2,405	337	37	39	1	33	528	4,083
North Kingstown	289	5,598	75	31	85	2	6	236	6,322
North Providence	796	3,833	397	15	158	0	74	241	5,514
North Smithfield	114	2,241	15	2	33	0	4	47	2,456
Pawtucket	4,785	6,513	2,727	83	256	7	1,004	1,200	16,575
Portsmouth	157	3,537	53	11	58	1	13	166	3,996
Providence	23,166	6,737	6,682	375	2,095	15	494	2,070	41,634
Richmond	44	1,729	12	7	15	0	0	42	1,849
Scituate	54	2,145	8	4	29	0	3	29	2,272
Smithfield	117	3,337	46	6	41	0	9	69	3,625
South Kingstown	192	4,687	80	81	115	1	18	242	5,416
Tiverton	84	2,741	31	3	34	2	9	94	2,998
Warren	75	1,736	38	10	11	0	4	66	1,940
Warwick	1,048	13,365	275	38	457	2	39	601	15,825
West Greenwich	60	1,353	15	5	16	0	1	27	1,477
West Warwick	590	4,554	142	11	128	3	20	298	5,746
Westerly	252	4,068	68	52	127	2	10	208	4,787
Woonsocket	2,650	5,147	676	37	592	2	35	749	9,888
<i>Four Core Cities</i>	<i>34,551</i>	<i>19,144</i>	<i>10,577</i>	<i>512</i>	<i>2,963</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>1,712</i>	<i>4,256</i>	<i>73,741</i>
<i>Remainder of State</i>	<i>11,389</i>	<i>123,718</i>	<i>3,758</i>	<i>575</i>	<i>3,768</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>762</i>	<i>6,206</i>	<i>150,215</i>
<i>Rhode Island</i>	<i>45,940</i>	<i>142,862</i>	<i>14,335</i>	<i>1,087</i>	<i>6,731</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>2,474</i>	<i>10,462</i>	<i>223,956</i>

Source of Data for Table/Methodology

U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010 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.

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

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¹ Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics. (2015). *America's children: Key national indicators of well-being, 2015*. Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.

² 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.

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¹⁰ Population Reference Bureau analysis of 2010-2014 American Community Survey PUMS data.

¹¹ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2010-2014. Table B16004.

¹² *Strategic plan: Fiscal years 2010-2015*. (2011). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

^{13,14} U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates, 2014.

¹⁵ The Annie E. Casey Foundation KIDS COUNT Data Center. (2014). *Child population by nativity*. Retrieved January 11, 2016, from www.datacenter.kidscount.org

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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, safety and education.

SIGNIFICANCE

Rhode Island's children are diverse in racial and ethnic background. In 2010 in Rhode Island, 72% of children under age 18 were White, 8% were Black or African American, 3% were Asian, 1% were Native American, 9% of children were identified as "Some other race," and 7% as "Two or more races." In 2010, 21% of children living in Rhode Island were Hispanic.¹

Children who live in poverty, especially those who experience deep poverty in early childhood, are more likely to have health, behavioral, educational and social problems.^{2,3} Between 2010 and 2014, 20% of all Rhode Island children lived in poverty, 68% of whom were minorities.⁴

Black, Hispanic, and Native American children are more likely than White and Asian children to live in neighborhoods that lack the resources needed for them to grow up healthy and successful.⁵ In 2010, two-thirds (67%) of Rhode Island's minority children lived in one of the four core cities (those cities with the highest percentage of children living in

poverty). In 2010, more than three quarters of the children in Providence (84%) and Central Falls (87%) were of minority racial and ethnic backgrounds.⁶

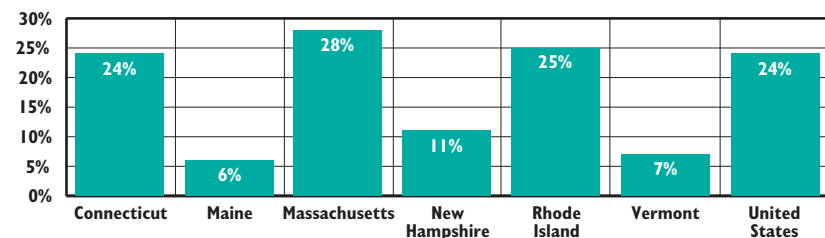
Children living in areas of concentrated poverty, who are more likely to be Black or Hispanic, face challenges above and beyond the burdens of individual poverty. The Providence metropolitan area has the 56th highest rate of concentrated poverty in the U.S.⁷ Residential segregation between Whites and Blacks has decreased in the U.S. since the 1970s, but high levels of residential segregation still exist. Hispanics and Asians experience less segregation than Blacks, but the rate of segregation for these groups has been increasing in recent years.⁸ The Providence-New Bedford-Fall River metropolitan area was the ninth most segregated metropolitan area in the nation for Hispanics in 2010.⁹

Black and Hispanic families were disproportionately impacted by the economic recession. In the U.S. between 2010 and 2013, White families' net worth rose by 2% while the net worth of Black and Hispanic families fell by 15% and 34%, respectively. The median net worth of White households is more than 10 times greater than Black or Hispanic families.¹⁰ In Rhode Island, Black and Hispanic families have higher rates of unemployment, earn lower wages, and have lower household income than White families.¹¹

Residential Segregation and Its Impact on Education

- ◆ In the U.S., Black and Hispanic students are now more segregated from White students than forty years ago.¹² White students generally attend schools that are disproportionately White and low-poverty, while Black and Hispanic students attend schools that are disproportionately minority and high-poverty.¹³
- ◆ Students in high-poverty, high-minority schools have unequal educational opportunities, with classmates who generally have more absences and lower graduation rates and teachers who have less teaching experience and are more likely to teach outside their subject area of expertise. Students living in poverty often face a host of challenges outside the classroom that can negatively impact academic performance, including inadequate housing, lower parental educational levels, and fewer opportunities for enriching after-school and summer activities.^{14,15}

Percentage of Children Living in Immigrant Families, New England and United States, 2014



Source: The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, datacenter.kidscount.org

- ◆ Children in immigrant families are defined as children under age 18 who are foreign-born or who have at least one foreign-born parent, regardless of citizenship status or year of arrival in the United States. In 2014, 25% (54,000) of Rhode Island children were living in immigrant families.
- ◆ In Rhode Island, the median family income for children in immigrant families (\$44,000) is lower than that of children living in U.S.-born families (\$71,100).¹⁶

Economic Well-Being Outcomes, by Race and Ethnicity, Rhode Island

	WHITE	HISPANIC	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	ALL RACES
Children in Poverty	15%	41%	36%	15%	57%	20%
Births to Mothers with <12 Years Education	8%	27%	17%	9%	28%	13%
Unemployment Rate	5%	9%	12%	NA	NA	6%
Median Family Income	\$79,418	\$32,207	\$39,454	\$69,677	\$25,941	\$73,217
Homeownership	65%	28%	31%	49%	22%	60%

Sources: *Children in Poverty* data are from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010-2014. Tables B17001, B17020A, B17020B, B17020C, B17020D & B17020I. *Maternal Education* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, Maternal and Child Health Database, 2010-2014. *Unemployment Rate* data are from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2015. *Median Family Income* data are from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010-2014, Tables B19113, B19113A, B19113B, B19113C, B19113D & B19113I. *Homeownership* data are from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010-2014, Tables B25003, B25003A, B25003B, B25003C, B25003D & B25003I. Hispanics also may be included in any of the race categories. All Census data refer only to those individuals who selected one race. NA indicates that the rate was not calculated because the number was too small to calculate a reliable rate.

- ◆ Between 2010 and 2014 in Rhode Island, 20% of all children, 41% of Hispanic children, 57% of Native American children, 36% of Black children, 15% of Asian children, and 15% of White children in Rhode Island lived in families with incomes below the federal poverty level.¹⁷
- ◆ Between 2010 and 2014 in Rhode Island, White households were the most likely to own their homes while Native American, Hispanic, and Black households were the most likely to live in rental units.¹⁸
- ◆ In 2015 in Rhode Island, the unemployment rate among White workers was 5.2%, compared to 12.2% for Black workers and 9.1% for Hispanic workers. Nationally, the unemployment rate for White workers in 2015 was 4.6%, compared to 9.6% for Black workers and 6.6% for Hispanic workers.¹⁹
- ◆ Education is essential for economic success. Adults with less than a high school diploma are at particular risk of living in poverty and other negative outcomes.²⁰ Hispanic, Black, and Native American children in Rhode Island are all more likely than White and Asian children to be born to mothers with less than a high school diploma.²¹

Health Outcomes, by Race and Ethnicity, Rhode Island

	WHITE	HISPANIC	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	ALL RACES
Children Without Health Insurance	2.6%	4.7%	6.2%	7.6%	NA	3.3%
Women With Delayed Prenatal Care	10.3%	15.5%	18.5%	14.9%	13.7%	12.4%
Preterm Births	8.5%	9.6%	11.4%	9.1%	10.1%	9.1%
Low Birthweight Infants	6.6%	7.8%	11.2%	9.0%	10.8%	7.5%
Infant Mortality (per 1,000 live births)	4.8	6.1	10.8	6.4	NA	6.2
Asthma Hospitalizations (per 1,000 children)	1.2	2.2	4.3	1.0	NA	1.6
Births to Teens Ages 15-19 (per 1,000 teens)	11.6	45.9	33.2	11.5	53.6	18.6

Sources: All data are from the Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, Maternal and Child Health Database, 2010-2014 unless otherwise specified. Information is based on self-reported race and ethnicity. *Children without Health Insurance* data are from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010-2014, Tables B27001A, B27001B, B27001D, B27001E, & CP03. *Asthma Hospitalizations* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Health, Hospital Discharge Database, 2010-2014 and refer only to hospitalizations due to primary diagnoses of asthma. Data on Preterm Births are not comparable to prior years. For *Asthma Hospitalizations* the denominators are the child population under age 18 by race from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010, SF1. For *Births to Teens* the denominators are the female populations ages 15-19 by race from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010, P12, P14. For all indicators other than *Asthma Hospitalizations*, Hispanics also may be included in any of the race categories. NA indicates that the rate was not calculated because the number was too small to calculate a reliable rate.

- ◆ Although progress has been made on many health indicators across racial and ethnic populations, disparities still exist for a number of maternal and infant health outcomes in Rhode Island. Minority women are more likely than White women to receive delayed or no prenatal care and to have preterm births. Minority children are more likely to die in infancy than White children. Hispanic and Black youth are more likely than White and Asian youth to give birth as teenagers.²²
- ◆ Black and Hispanic children in Rhode Island are more likely to be hospitalized as a result of asthma than White children.²³ Nationally, Blacks and Native Americans are the most likely of all racial and ethnic groups to have asthma.²⁴
- ◆ In 2014, 94% of U.S. children had health insurance coverage, an historic low. Hispanic (90%) and Native American (86%) children have the lowest rates of coverage.²⁵

Racial and Ethnic Disparities

Safety Outcomes, by Race and Ethnicity, Rhode Island

	WHITE	HISPANIC	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	ALL RACES
Youth at the Training School* (per 1,000 youth ages 13-18)	2.6	10.0	20.2	3.0	12.4	5.5
Children of Incarcerated Parents (per 1,000 children)	9.3	16.4	80.7	4.0	28.5	14.8
Children in Out-of-Home Placement (per 1,000 children)	6.5	13.0	19.8	3.6	15.6	9.3

Sources: *Youth at the Training School* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, Rhode Island Training School, Calendar Year 2015. *Children of Incarcerated Parents* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Corrections, September 30, 2015 and reflect the race of the incarcerated parent (includes only the sentenced population). *Children in Out-of-Home Placement* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, RICHIST Database, December 31, 2015. Population denominators used for *Youth at the Training School* are youth ages 13-18 by race from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010, SF1. Population denominators used for *Children of Incarcerated Parents* and *Children in Out-of-Home Placement* are the populations under age 18 by race from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010, SF1.

◆ Racial and ethnic minority youth continue to be disproportionately represented in the U.S. juvenile justice system. Minority youth (especially Latino and Black youth) are treated more harshly than White youth for the same type and severity of offenses, including detention, processing, and incarceration in juvenile and adult correctional facilities.²⁶ Rhode Island’s juvenile justice system has some of the widest residential placement disparities between White and minority youth in the nation.²⁷

◆ Black, Native American, and Hispanic children in Rhode Island are more likely than their White, and Asian peers to be placed out-of-home through the child welfare system.²⁸ Nationally, minority children experience disparate treatment as they enter the foster care system and while they are in the system. They are more likely than White children under similar circumstances to be placed in foster care, remain in the child welfare system longer, have less contact with child welfare staff, and to have lower reunification rates.²⁹

◆ Disproportionality in child welfare and juvenile justice systems is in part a reflection of differential poverty rates between minority and White communities. However, while addressing poverty through policies would reduce child maltreatment and juvenile offending rates, policies that work directly to reduce disparities are necessary as well.³⁰

Education Outcomes, by Race and Ethnicity, Rhode Island

	WHITE	HISPANIC	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	ALL RACES
3rd Grade Students Meeting Expectations in Reading	48%	18%	22%	47%	17%	37%
3rd Grade Students Meeting Expectations in Math	46%	18%	21%	52%	13%	36%
Students Attending Schools Identified for Intervention	3%	37%	30%	18%	19%	14%
Four-Year High School Graduation Rates	87%	76%	77%	89%	65%	83%
% of Adults Over Age 25 With a Bachelor’s Degree or Higher	33%	12%	18%	41%	11%	31%

Sources: *Third Grade Students Meeting Expectations in Reading and Math* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Education, *Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)*, 2015. *Students Attending Schools Identified for Intervention* and *Four-Year High School Graduation Rates* data are from the Rhode Island Department of Education, 2014-2015 school year. *Adult Educational Attainment* data are from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2010-2014, Tables B15003, C15002A, C15002B, C15002C, C15002D & C15002I. All Census data refer only to those individuals who selected one race and Hispanics also may be included in any of the race categories.

◆ In Rhode Island, Native American, Hispanic, and Black children are less likely to meet expectations in reading and mathematics in third grade than White or Asian children.³¹ Native American, Hispanic, and Black adults living in Rhode Island are less likely to have a bachelor’s degree than White or Asian adults.³²

◆ Nationally, Black, Hispanic, and Native American students are more likely than White and Asian students to be disciplined in school. Schools’ disproportionate use of disciplinary techniques that remove children from the classroom, such as out-of-school suspension or expulsion, may contribute to racial and ethnic gaps in school achievement and drop-out rates. In Rhode Island during the 2014-2015 school year, minority students received 56% of all disciplinary actions, although they made up only 40% of the student population.³³

◆ During the 2014-2015 school year, Rhode Island’s Hispanic and Black children were almost 12 times as likely as White children to attend schools identified for intervention.³⁴

Rhode Island's Hispanic Children and Youth

◆ In 2010, there were 45,940 Hispanic children under age 18 living in Rhode Island, up from 35,326 in 2000. Hispanic children made up 21% of Rhode Island's child population in 2010, compared with 14% in 2000.³⁵

◆ In 2010, three-quarters (75%) of the Hispanic children in Rhode Island lived in the four core cities of Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket. While Providence has the largest Hispanic child population overall, Central Falls has the highest percentage of Hispanic children.³⁶

Economics

◆ In 2014, 38% percent of Rhode Island's Hispanic children were living in poverty, compared to the national rate of 32%.³⁷ The median family income for Hispanics in Rhode Island was \$32,207, compared to \$73,217 overall for all races in Rhode Island.³⁸

Health

◆ In Rhode Island between 2010 and 2014, 15.5% percent of Hispanic babies were born to women who received delayed or no prenatal care, compared with 12.4% of all babies in the state.³⁹

◆ Between 2010 and 2014, Hispanic female teens between the ages of 15 and 19 in Rhode Island had a birth rate that was more than two times higher than the overall teen birth rate in Rhode Island (45.9 per 1,000 Hispanic teens ages 15 to 19 compared to 18.6 per 1,000 for all teens).^{40,41}

Education

◆ The four-year high school graduation rate among Hispanic youth in the class of 2015 was 76%, lower than Rhode Island's four-year high school graduation rate of 83%.⁴²

◆ The achievement gap between White and Latino students in Rhode Island is among the largest in the U.S.⁴³

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Methodology & References

Family Income Levels Based on the Federal Poverty Measures

The poverty thresholds are the original version of the federal poverty measure. They are updated each year by the Census Bureau. The thresholds are used mainly for statistical purposes — for instance, estimating the number of children in Rhode Island living in poor families. The poverty threshold is adjusted upward based on family size and whether or not household members are children, adults, or 65 years of age and over. The 2015 federal poverty threshold for a family of three with two children is \$19,096 and \$24,036 for a family of four with two children.

The poverty guidelines are the other version of the federal poverty measure. They are issued each year in the Federal Register by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

The guidelines are a simplification of the poverty thresholds for use for administrative purposes such as determining financial eligibility for certain federal programs. Often, government assistance programs, including many of those administered by Rhode Island, use the federal poverty guidelines to determine income eligibility for public programs. The figures are adjusted upward for larger family sizes.

The phrases "Federal Poverty Level" and "Federal Poverty Line" (often abbreviated FPL) are used interchangeably and can refer to either the poverty thresholds or the poverty guidelines.

Family Income Levels Based on the Federal Poverty Guidelines

2016 FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES	ANNUAL INCOME FAMILY OF THREE	ANNUAL INCOME FAMILY OF FOUR
50%	\$10,080	\$12,150
100%	\$20,160	\$24,300
130%	\$26,208	\$31,590
175%	\$35,280	\$42,525
180%	\$36,288	\$43,740
185%	\$37,296	\$44,955
200%	\$40,320	\$48,600
225%	\$45,360	\$54,675
250%	\$50,400	\$60,750

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