

# 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 1,056,298 Rhode Island residents in 2015. Children under age 18 make up 20% of the population. Between 2000 and 2015, Rhode Island's child population decreased by 15% from 247,822 to 211,875.<sup>1,2</sup> Between 2011 and 2015, there were 119,896 households with children under age 18 in Rhode Island, representing 29% of all households.<sup>3</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>4</sup>

In Rhode Island between 2011 and 2015, 123,286 (57%) children under age 18 lived in married-couple households, 69,593 (32%) children lived in single-parent households, and 18,345 (9%) children lived with relatives, including grandparents and other relatives. A total of 2,948 (1%) children lived with foster families or other unrelated heads of household.

There were 801 (<1%) children and youth under age 18 who lived in group quarters and 46 (<1%) youth who were householders or spouses.<sup>5,6,7</sup>

Rhode Island's children are diverse in race, ethnicity, 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.<sup>8,9,10,11</sup>

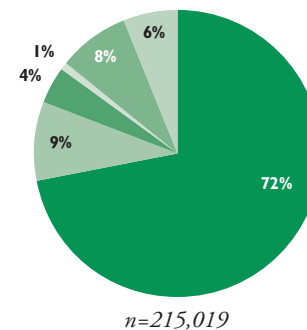
Between 2011 and 2015, there were 8,844 foreign-born children under the age of 18 living in Rhode Island, representing approximately 4% of the child population.<sup>12</sup> Of Rhode Island children ages five to 17, 77% speak only English at home, 16% speak Spanish, 4% speak other Indo-European languages, 2% speak Asian or Pacific Island languages, and 1% speak other languages at home.<sup>13</sup>

Sexual orientation 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.<sup>14</sup>

## Rhode Island Children Under Age 18, 2011-2015

### By Race/Ethnicity\*

72%	White
9%	Black
4%	Asian
1%	American Indian and Alaska Native
8%	Some Other Race
6%	Two or More Races

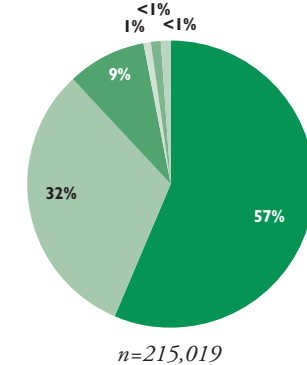


\*Hispanic children may be included in any race category. Of Rhode Island's 215,019 children, 48,362 (22%) were Hispanic.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015. Tables B01001A, B01001B, B01001C, B01001D, B01001E, B01001F, B01001G, and B01001I.

### By Family Structure

57%	Married-Couple**
32%	Single-Parent**
9%	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, 2011-2015. Table B09001, B09002, and B09018.

◆ In 2015, children under age 18 made up 20% of Rhode Island's population. Of the 211,875 children under age 18 in Rhode Island in 2015, 51% were male and 49% were female.<sup>15</sup>

◆ Between 2011 and 2015, 59% of children under 18 years of age in Rhode Island lived in owner-occupied housing units and 41% lived in renter-occupied units.<sup>16</sup>

◆ Of children ages three to 17 enrolled in school in Rhode Island between 2011 and 2015, 84% were enrolled in public schools and 16% were enrolled in private schools.<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>1,15</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2015. Table S0201.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1. Table DP-1.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015. Table S1101.

<sup>4,9</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015. Table B01001.

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015. Table B09002.

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015. Table B09018.

<sup>7</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015. Table B09001.

<sup>8</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, 2011-2015. Table B01001I.

<sup>12</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015. Table B05003.

<sup>13</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015. Table B16007.

<sup>14</sup> Rhode Island Department of Health, *2015 Youth Risk Behavior Survey*.

<sup>16,17</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2011-2015. Table S0901.