

Family and Community

Metaphor

by Eve Merriam

Morning is
a new sheet of paper
for you to write on.

Whatever you want to say,
all day,
until night
folds it up
and flies it away.

The bright words and the dark words
are gone
until dawn
and a new day
to write on.



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 1,057,315 Rhode Island residents in 2018. 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 203,908 in 2018 (18% decrease from 2000 to 2018).^{1,2,3} Between 2014 and 2018, there were 106,070 households with children under age 18 in Rhode Island, representing 26% of all households.⁴ Twenty-six percent of Rhode Island children were under age five, 28% were ages five to nine, 28% were ages 10 to 14, and 18% were ages 15 to 17.⁵

In Rhode Island, between 2014 and 2018, 123,173 (66%) children under age 18 lived in married-couple households, 63,859 (34%) children lived in single-parent households, and 17,902 (9%) children lived with relatives, including grandparents. A total of 3,194 (2%) children lived with foster families or other non-relative

heads of household. There were 709 (<1%) children and youth under age 18 who lived in group quarters and 32 (<1%) youth who were householders or spouses.^{6,7,8}

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.^{9,10,11}

Between 2014 and 2018, there were 8,525 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, 17% speak Spanish, 4% speak other Indo-European languages, 2% speak Asian or Pacific Island languages, and 1% speak other languages at home.¹³

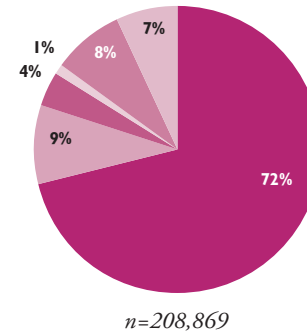
Sexual orientation is another important facet of diversity among youth. According to the *2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey*, 11% of high school students in Rhode Island described themselves as lesbian, gay, or bisexual. This does not include students who responded "not sure" when asked about their sexual orientation.¹⁴



Rhode Island Children Under Age 18, 2014-2018

By Race/Ethnicity*

72%	White
9%	Black
4%	Asian
1%	American Indian and Alaska Native
8%	Some Other Race
7%	Two or More Races

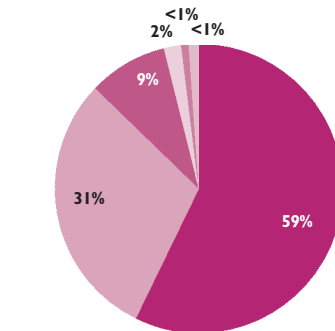


*Hispanic children may be included in any race category. Of Rhode Island's 208,869 children, 51,471 (25%) were Hispanic.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-2018. Tables B01001A, B01001B, B01001C, B01001D, B01001E, B01001F, B01001G, and B01001I.

By Family Structure

59%	Married-Couple**
31%	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, 2014-2018. Tables B09001, B09002, and B09018.



Decennial Census 2020

◆ The decennial Census count is 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.¹⁵ These federal funds support a wide array of programs that improve outcomes for children and families in Rhode Island.¹⁶

◆ 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.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 U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018. Table S0201.
- ² U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1. Table DP-1.
- ³ U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010 Summary File 1. Table DP-1.
- ⁴ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-2018. Table S1101.
- ⁵ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-2018. Table B01001.
- ⁶ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-2018. Table B09002.
- ⁷ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-2018. Table B09018.
- ⁸ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-2018. Table B09001.
- ⁹ 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, 2014-2018. Table B01001I.
- ¹² U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-2018. Table B05003.
- ¹³ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-2018. Table B16007.
- ¹⁴ *2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey*, Rhode Island Department of Health.
- ^{15,17} U.S. Census Bureau. (2018). *2020 Census: Counting everyone once, only once, and in the right place*. Retrieved January 23, 2020 from www2.census.gov
- ¹⁶ U.S. Census Bureau. (2017). *Uses of Census Bureau data in federal funds distribution*. Retrieved January 23, 2020, from www.census.gov/library/working-papers/

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 – of any gender – who is unmarried, regardless of whether both parents live in the home but are unmarried or if only one parent lives in the home. These numbers include “own children” defined as never-married, under age 18, and related to the family head by birth, marriage, or adoption.

SIGNIFICANCE

According to the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey, there were 187,032 children living with one or more parents in Rhode Island between 2014 and 2018. Of these, 34% (63,859) were living with an unmarried parent, down from 36% of children between 2009 and 2013.^{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 2014 and 2018, 75% of children living in poverty in Rhode Island were living in single-parent families. Children in single-parent families in Rhode Island were more than five times more likely to be living in poverty than those in married-couple families. Between 2014 and 2018 in

Rhode Island, 37% of children in single-parent families lived in poverty, compared to 7% of children in married-couple families.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 more likely than their peers to have 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

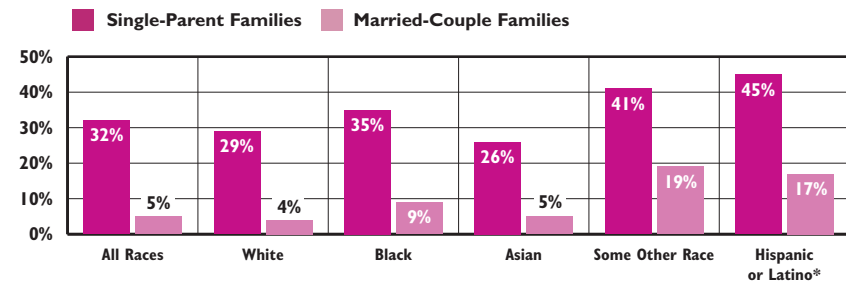
Single-Parent Families		
	2008	2018
RI	34%	38%
US	32%	35%
National Rank*	37th	
New England Rank**	6th	

*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, 2014-2018



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-2018. Tables B17010, B17010A, B17010B, B17010D, B17010F, B17010I. *Hispanic or Latino may be in any race category.

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

Family Structure and Child Well-Being

- ◆ **Family structure influences children’s social, emotional, and cognitive development. 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.**^{14,15}
- ◆ **Children in the U.S. live in a variety of family structures. Among those who live with at least one of their biological parents, 59% live in families with only biological parent(s) and full sibling(s), and 41% live in families with single parents, stepparents, stepsiblings, and/or half siblings. Family structure varies by education, with one in two children whose parents have a high school diploma or less education and about one in five children with a college-educated parent living in ‘complex’ families.**¹⁶
- ◆ **After increasing for several decades, the proportion of births to unmarried families in the U.S. has leveled off and has been around 40% since 2009.^{17,18} Babies born to cohabiting couples comprise 25% of all births and 60% of nonmarital births in the U.S., and they account for nearly the entire increase in nonmarital births.**¹⁹

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

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- ² U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009-2013. 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.
- ^{4,7} *Family structure*. (2015). Washington, DC: Child Trends.
- ⁵ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-2018. Table B17006.
- ^{8,10} 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).
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- ¹¹ Mather, M. (2010). *U.S. children in single-mother families*. Washington, DC: Population Reference Bureau.
- ¹³ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-2018. Tables B17010, B17010A, B17010B, B17010D, B17010F, B17010I.
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(continued on page 174)

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

The number of grandparents raising grandchildren is on the rise. In the United States, eight million grandchildren live in households headed primarily by grandparents, and 2.7 million of these grandparents serve as the primary caregiver. Black and American Indian and Alaskan Native children are more likely to be cared for by grandparents than other groups.¹

A grandparent caregiver reduces the trauma of separation when a child cannot remain with their parents and provides better outcomes for children than those who are placed with non-relatives. Children may be in a grandparent's care because of child abuse or neglect, unemployment, or incarceration. Increasingly, parental substance use is the reason a grandparent becomes the primary caregiver.^{2,3}

Twice as many grandmothers are involved in raising grandchildren than grandfathers. Forty percent of grandmother-only caregivers live below the poverty line, and 76% receive public

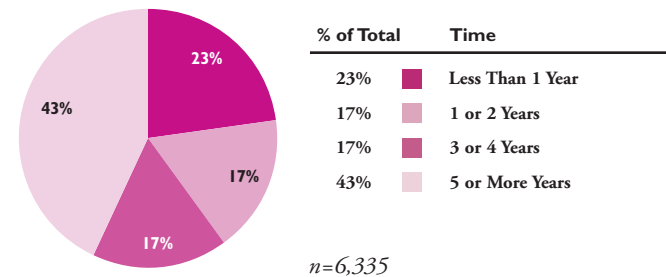
assistance. Nearly one in five of all grandparent caregivers live in poverty.^{4,5}

Many grandparents have informal custody arrangements and are not involved with child welfare agencies, often receiving fewer services than traditional foster parents.⁶ Compared to the general population, children in informal kinship care are more likely to live in poverty, less likely to be covered by health insurance, and are more likely to have physical and mental disabilities.⁷

Grandparents and other relative caregivers often lack information about the support services (such as training, respite, and peer support), resources, programs, and policies available to them. Nearly all children in kinship care are eligible for cash assistance through Temporary Assistance for Needy Families regardless of their household's income level, yet children in informal custody arrangements are much less likely to receive these payments.^{8,9}

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 legal process required for permanent status in order to avoid strain on family relationships and due to cost.^{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

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Rhode Island Grandparents Financially Responsible for Their Grandchildren, by Length of Time Responsible, 2014-2018



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-2018. Table B10050.

◆ **Between 2014 and 2018, there were a total of 14,276 children in Rhode Island living in households headed by grandparents.¹³ During this time period, there were 6,335 grandparents who were financially responsible for their grandchildren, 59% of whom had been financially responsible for three or more years.¹⁴**

◆ **In the 2010 Census, 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 the child welfare system have more adverse childhood experiences which contribute to negative health outcomes in adulthood. Children in kinship foster care have better physical and mental health outcomes, more stability, and are more likely to have a permanent home.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, 2019, there were 809 children under age 19 in DCYF care who were in out-of-home placements with a grandparent or other relative. These children made up 40% of all children in out-of-home placements in Rhode Island.¹⁸**

◆ **The federal *Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008* helps keep families together and improve outcomes by allowing federal dollars to support children exiting foster care to permanent homes with relative guardians.¹⁹ Rhode Island is one of 35 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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- ¹⁵ U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010.

(continued on page 174)

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.

SIGNIFICANCE

Parental educational attainment can have an impact on many aspects of child well-being, including children's health and health-related behaviors, school readiness, educational achievement, and involvement in pro-social activities.¹ Children of parents without high school degrees are more likely to struggle in school, including receiving lower achievement scores, repeating grades, and failing to graduate from high school.²

Infant mortality rates increase as mother's education levels decrease.³ For example, in Rhode Island between 2014-2018, babies born to mothers with a high school degree or less had a higher infant mortality rate (5.3 per 1,000) than babies born to mothers with more advanced education (3.2 per 1,000 births).⁴

Children of more highly educated parents participate in early learning programs and home literacy activities more frequently and enter school with higher levels of academic skills. Increasing maternal education can improve children's school readiness, language and academic skills, health,

employment opportunities, and earnings.^{5,6,7} Higher levels of parental education can decrease the likelihood that a child will live in poverty.⁸ Between 2014-2018, women with bachelor's degrees in Rhode Island earned 2.3 times more than those with less than a high school diploma and 1.7 times more than women with a high school diploma.⁹

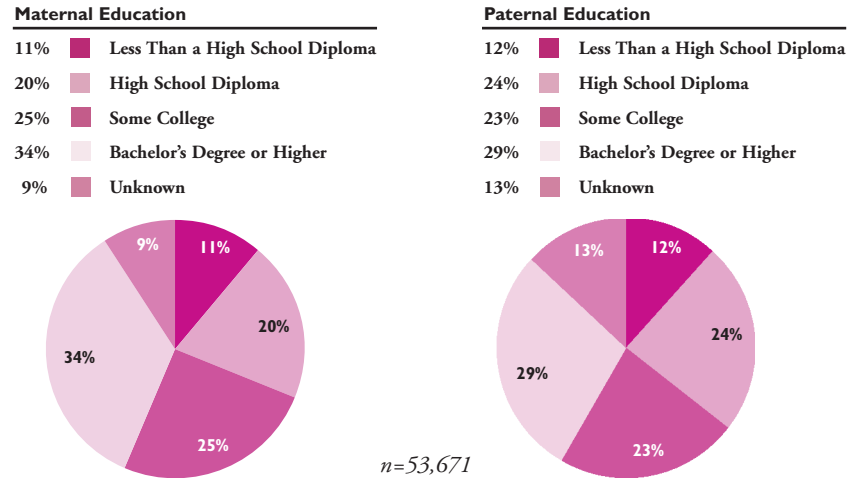
Between 2014-2018, 11% of Rhode Island births were to mothers with less than a high school diploma and 59% were to mothers with at least some college education.¹⁰ Nationally in 2017, 12% of school-aged children lived with mothers with less than a high school diploma, and 65% had mothers with at least some college education.¹¹

Births to Mothers With Less Than a High School Diploma, Rhode Island, 2014-2018

CITY/TOWN	% OF BIRTHS
Central Falls	33%
Pawtucket	15%
Providence	21%
Woonsocket	18%
Four Core Cities	20%
Remainder of State	5%
Rhode Island	11%

Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, Maternal Child Health Database, 2014-2018.

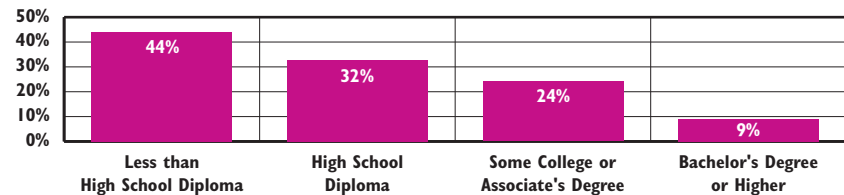
Births by Parental Education Levels, Rhode Island, 2014-2018



Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, Maternal Child Health Database, 2014-2018.

◆ In Rhode Island between 2014 and 2018, 31% of all infants were born to mothers with a high school diploma or less, and 36% were born to fathers with a high school diploma or less.¹²

Poverty Rates for Families Headed by Single Women by Educational Attainment, Rhode Island, 2014-2018



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-2018. Table S1702.

◆ In Rhode Island between 2014 and 2018, 44% of families headed by single women with less than a high school diploma lived in poverty, compared with 9% of those with a bachelor's degree or higher.¹³

Mother's Education Level

Table 4.

Births by Education Level of Mother, Rhode Island, 2014-2018

CITY/TOWN	TOTAL # OF BIRTHS	BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR ABOVE		SOME COLLEGE		HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA		LESS THAN A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Barrington	551	416	75%	52	9%	28	5%	9	*
Bristol	681	307	45%	191	28%	116	17%	33	5%
Burrillville	660	219	33%	206	31%	151	23%	40	6%
Central Falls	1,598	98	6%	325	20%	447	28%	525	33%
Charlestown	257	103	40%	67	26%	54	21%	14	5% [^]
Coventry	1,485	593	40%	474	32%	263	18%	67	5%
Cranston	3,889	1,602	41%	1,037	27%	678	17%	259	7%
Cumberland	1,783	980	55%	399	22%	213	12%	57	3%
East Greenwich	520	375	72%	59	11%	32	6%	9	*
East Providence	2,301	881	38%	589	26%	479	21%	177	8%
Exeter	242	127	52%	55	23%	33	14%	15	6% [^]
Foster	176	63	36%	62	35%	31	18%	8	*
Glocester	347	149	43%	122	35%	47	14%	7	*
Hopkinton	282	124	44%	71	25%	51	18%	16	6% [^]
Jamestown	119	81	68%	24	20%	2	*	1	*
Johnston	1,297	470	36%	406	31%	241	19%	76	6%
Lincoln	966	489	51%	250	26%	127	13%	40	4%
Little Compton	82	40	49%	26	32%	6	*	1	*
Middletown	850	428	50%	199	23%	127	15%	35	4%
Narragansett	286	166	58%	61	21%	31	11%	10	*
New Shoreham	42	14	33% [^]	16	38% [^]	4	*	2	*
Newport	1,247	541	43%	216	17%	221	18%	163	13%
North Kingstown	1,113	623	56%	214	19%	152	14%	47	4%
North Providence	1,601	606	38%	462	29%	309	19%	90	6%
North Smithfield	404	190	47%	115	28%	53	13%	14	3% [^]
Pawtucket	4,809	960	20%	1,316	27%	1,253	26%	736	15%
Portsmouth	654	387	59%	150	23%	57	9%	11	2% [^]
Providence	12,406	2,469	20%	2,787	22%	2,997	24%	2,616	21%
Richmond	281	142	51%	61	22%	51	18%	9	*
Scituate	410	201	49%	120	29%	49	12%	10	*
Smithfield	691	378	55%	179	26%	84	12%	11	2% [^]
South Kingstown	792	467	59%	134	17%	95	12%	41	5%
Tiverton	598	261	44%	183	31%	91	15%	30	5% [^]
Warren	444	178	40%	130	29%	86	19%	22	5% [^]
Warwick	3,814	1,669	44%	1,104	29%	667	17%	168	4%
West Greenwich	235	123	52%	51	22%	36	15%	8	*
West Warwick	1,710	442	26%	573	34%	438	26%	168	10%
Westerly	922	392	43%	234	25%	203	22%	55	6%
Woonsocket	2,808	392	14%	698	25%	920	33%	515	18%
Unknown**	318	136	43%	89	28%	51	16%	13	4% [^]
Four Core Cities	21,621	3,919	18%	5,126	24%	5,617	26%	4,392	20%
Remainder of State	31,732	14,227	45%	8,292	26%	5,306	17%	1,723	5%
Rhode Island	53,671	18,282	34%	13,507	25%	10,974	20%	6,128	11%

Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, Maternal Child Health Database, 2014-2018. 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 2014 and 2018, maternal education levels were unknown for 4,780 births (9%).

* The data are statistically unreliable, and rates are not reported and should not be calculated.

[^]The data are statistically unstable, and rates or percentages should be interpreted with caution.

** Unknown births include three births with missing maternal residence data.

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

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(continued on page 174)

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 children of color.² In 2018, 50% of all U.S. children were children of color.³ In Rhode Island between 2000 and 2010, the Hispanic child population grew by 31% while the non-Hispanic White child population declined by 21%.⁴

In 2010, 36% of children in Rhode Island were children of color, up from 27% in 2000. The number of children of color grew by about 13,000 between 2000 and 2010, and the number of non-Hispanic White children decreased by over 37,000 during the same period.^{5,6}

Including Hispanics in each race category, 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% identified as Some other race, and 7% identified as Two or more races. In 2010, 21% of children living in Rhode Island were Hispanic.⁷

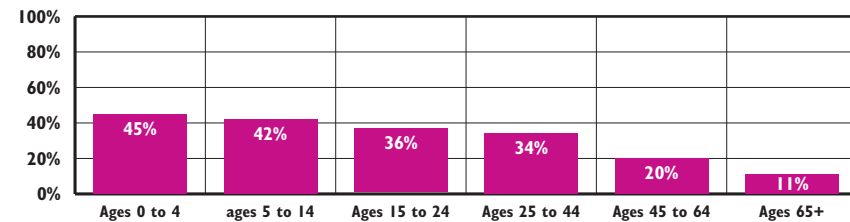
In 2010, two-thirds (67%) of all children of color in Rhode Island lived in the four core cities of Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket. Almost three-quarters (74%) of children living in the four core cities were children of color.⁸

Between 2014 and 2018, there were 8,525 foreign-born children living in Rhode Island, 31% of whom were naturalized U.S. citizens.⁹ Of Rhode Island's immigrant children, 26% were born in Asia, 27% were born in the Caribbean, 23% were born in Central or South America, 14% were born in Africa, 8% were born in Europe, and 3% were born in North America (Canada, Bermuda, or Mexico).¹⁰

Between 2014 and 2018, 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

Many schools, child care providers, health care providers, social service agencies, and other community organizations are working to adapt their practices to be more culturally competent and better serve this increasingly diverse child population.¹²

◆ ■■■■■◆
Percent of Population Identified as People of Color by Age, Rhode Island, 2018



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates, 2018.

◆ **Young children in Rhode Island are more likely to be identified as people of color than any other age group. In 2018, 45% of Rhode Island children under age five identify as people of color, compared with 34% of adults ages 25 to 44 and 11% of people age 65 or over.**¹³

◆ **In 2018, the median age of Hispanic Rhode Islanders was 28 years, compared with 46 years for White Rhode Islanders, 34 years for Native American Rhode Islanders, 33 years for Black Rhode Islanders, 32 years for Asian Rhode Islanders, and 20 years for Rhode Islanders of Two or more races.**¹⁴

◆ **In 2018, 96% 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), almost the same as the U.S. rate of 25%.¹⁶ Nearly all (98%) Rhode Island children in immigrant families have parents who arrived in this country more than five years ago.**¹⁷

◆ **In Rhode Island in 2018, the median family income for children in immigrant families was \$54,100, compared to \$87,000 for children in non-immigrant families.¹⁸ Between 2014 and 2018, 67% 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 In 2018, 19% of Rhode Island children in immigrant families lived in linguistically-isolated households, meaning no one 14 years or older speaks only English and no one over 14 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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¹¹ U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2014-2018. Table B16004.

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(continued on page 174)

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, economic, and social problems.^{2,3} Between 2014 and 2018, 18% of all Rhode Island children lived in poverty, 70% of whom were children of color.⁴

Black, Latino, and Native American children are more likely than White and Asian children to live in neighborhoods of concentrated poverty and face challenges above and beyond the burdens of individual poverty.⁵ In Rhode Island, almost one-third (32%) of Latino children live in concentrated poverty, higher than any other state

except Pennsylvania (35%).⁶

In 2010, two-thirds (67%) of Rhode Island's children of color lived in one of the four core cities (those cities with the highest percentage of children living in poverty), and more than three quarters of the children in Providence (84%) and Central Falls (87%) were children of color.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. The median net worth of Black and Hispanic families fell more than White families from 2007 through 2013. While the net worth of all families increased from 2013 through 2016, the median net worth of White households was almost 10 times greater than Black families and eight times higher than Hispanic families in 2016.¹⁰ In Rhode Island, Black and Latino families have higher rates of unemployment and earn lower wages than White families.¹¹

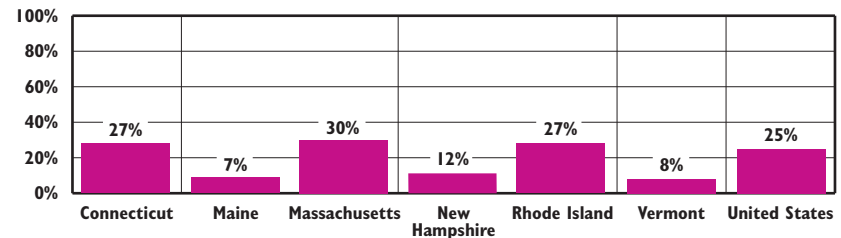


Residential Segregation and Its Impact on Education

- ◆ In the U.S., Black and Latino students have become increasingly segregated from White students over the last 30 years. White students generally attend schools that are disproportionately White and low-poverty, while Black and Latino students attend schools that are disproportionately students of color and high-poverty.^{12,13}
- ◆ Students in schools with high concentrations of low-income students and students of color 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, less access to health care, 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, 2017-2018



Source: The Urban Institute Children of Immigrants Data Tool, Data from 2017-2018, www.urban.org

*Percentage reported represents children living in a family with at least one foreign-born parent.

- ◆ Children in immigrant families are defined as children under age 18 living in a family with at least one foreign-born parent. In 2017-2018, 27% (55,000) of Rhode Island children were living in immigrant families.¹⁶
- ◆ More than half (53%) of Rhode Island's Hispanic children live in an immigrant family.¹⁷



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

	WHITE	HISPANIC	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	ALL RACES
Children in Poverty	14%	35%	26%	12%	63%	18%
Births to Mothers with <12 Years Education	6%	25%	13%	7%	23%	11%
Unemployment Rate	3.3%	6.1%	4.6%	NA	NA	3.5%
Median Family Income	\$88,569	\$40,624	\$49,980	\$82,051	\$35,796	\$81,822
Homeownership	65%	28%	32%	49%	20%	60%

Sources: *Children in Poverty* data are from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-2018. Tables S1701, 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, 2014-2018 (race data is non-Hispanic). *Unemployment Rate* data are from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Local Area Unemployment Statistics, 2019. *Median Family Income* data are from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-2018, Tables B19113, B19113A, B19113B, B19113C, B19113D & B19113I. *Homeownership* data are from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-2018, Tables B25003, B25003A, B25003B, B25003C, B25003D & B25003I. For U.S. Census Bureau data, Hispanics 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 suppressed because the number was too small to calculate a reliable rate.

- ◆ Between 2014 and 2018 in Rhode Island, 18% of all children, 63% of Native American children, 35% of Hispanic children, 26% of Black children, 14% of White children, and 12% of Asian children in Rhode Island lived in families with incomes below the federal poverty threshold.¹⁸
- ◆ Between 2014 and 2018 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.¹⁹
- ◆ In 2019 in Rhode Island, the unemployment rate among White workers was 3.3%, compared to 4.6% for Black workers and 6.1% for Hispanic workers. Nationally, the unemployment rate for White workers in 2019 was 3.3%, compared to 6.1% for Black workers and 4.3% for Hispanic workers.²⁰
- ◆ 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.²¹ Hispanic, Native American, and Black 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.²²



Health Outcomes, by Race and Ethnicity, Rhode Island

	WHITE	HISPANIC	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	ALL RACES
Children Without Health Insurance	2.4%	2.3%	1.4%	4.9%	NA	2.2%
Women With Delayed or No Prenatal Care	13.4%	18.2%	22.3%	16.4%	21.2%	15.9%
Preterm Births	8.1%	9.3%	11.2%	7.5%	13.2%	8.7%
Low Birthweight Infants	6.6%	8.0%	11.1%	7.5%	12.5	7.5%
Infant Mortality (per 1,000 live births)	3.3	5.5	10.6	5.2^	*	5.2
Births to Teens Ages 15-19 (per 1,000 teens)	7.5	31.7	16.6	3.3	26.7	14.0

Sources: All data are from the Rhode Island Department of Health, Center for Health Data and Analysis, Maternal and Child Health Database, 2014-2018 unless otherwise specified. Race and ethnicity is self-reported. Race data is non-Hispanic, except for *Infant Mortality* where Hispanic can be of any race. *Children Without Health Insurance* data are from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018, Tables B27001, B27001A, B27001B, B27001D & B27001I. For U.S. Census Bureau data, Hispanic also may be included in any of the race categories. For *Births to Teens* the denominator is the female population ages 15 to 19 by race and ethnicity from CDC Wonder. Note that the All Races total for *Births to Teens* does not match the Rhode Island total presented by city and town in the *Births to Teens* indicator, which uses American Community Survey data by city and town as the denominator.

*The data are statistically unreliable and rates are not reported and should not be calculated.
 ^The data are statistically unstable and rates or percentages should be interpreted with caution..

- ◆ 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. Women of color are more likely than White women to receive delayed or no prenatal care and to have infants with low birthweight. Native American, Black, and Hispanic women are also more likely to have preterm births than White and Asian women. Black children are more likely to die in infancy than White, Hispanic, or Asian children. Hispanic, Native American, and Black youth are more likely than White and Asian youth to give birth as teenagers.²³
- ◆ Black and Hispanic children in Rhode Island are more likely to go to the Emergency Department as a result of asthma than White children.²⁴ Nationally, children of Two or more races and Black children are the most likely of all racial and ethnic groups to have asthma.²⁵
- ◆ In 2018, 95% of U.S. children had health insurance coverage. Hispanic (92%) and Native American (87%) children had the lowest rates of coverage.²⁶

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)	1.1	5.9	14.7	0.8	5.0	3.0
Children of Incarcerated Parents (per 1,000 children)	6.7	15.3	46.6	1.7	33.1	12.2
Children in Out-of-Home Placement (per 1,000 children)	6.1	12.7	17.9	2.3	6.4	7.2

Sources: Youth at the Training School data are from the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, Rhode Island Training School, Calendar Year 2019. Children of Incarcerated Parents data are from the Rhode Island Department of Corrections, September 30, 2019 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, 2019. Population denominators used for Youth at the Training School are youth ages 13 to 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.

◆ Youth of color continue to be disproportionately represented in the U.S. juvenile justice system. Youth of color (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.²⁷ Rhode Island's juvenile justice system continues to have a higher rate of disparity between White youth and youth of color than the nation.²⁸

◆ Black and Hispanic children in Rhode Island are more likely than their White, Asian or Native American peers to be placed out-of-home through the child welfare system.²⁹ Nationally, children of color 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 have lower reunification rates.³⁰

◆ Racial and ethnic disproportionality in child welfare and juvenile justice systems is in part a reflection of differential poverty rates between communities of color and White communities. However, while addressing poverty through policies would reduce out-of-home placement rates and juvenile incarceration rates, policies that work directly to reduce racial and ethnic disparities are necessary as well.³¹



Education Outcomes, by Race and Ethnicity, Rhode Island

	WHITE	HISPANIC	BLACK	ASIAN	NATIVE AMERICAN	ALL RACES
3rd Grade Students Meeting Expectations in Reading	57%	33%	33%	58%	23%	48%
3rd Grade Students Meeting Expectations in Math	45%	21%	24%	52%	16%	36%
Four-Year High School Graduation Rates	88%	76%	81%	88%	70%	84%
Immediate College Enrollment Rates	72%	56%	61%	76%	59%	67%
% of Adults Over Age 25 With a Bachelor's Degree or Higher	35%	14%	21%	49%	17%	33%

Sources: Third Grade Students Meeting Expectations in Reading and Math data are from the Rhode Island Department of Education, Rhode Island Comprehensive Assessment System (RICAS), 2019. Four-Year High School Graduation Rates data are from the Rhode Island Department of Education, Class of 2019. Immediate College Enrollment Rates data are from the Rhode Island Department of Education, Class of 2018. Adult Educational Attainment data are from the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014-2018, 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, Black, and Hispanic children are less likely to meet expectations in reading and mathematics in third grade than White or Asian children.³²

◆ Nationally and in Rhode Island, Native American, Hispanic, and Black students are less likely to graduate from high school within four years and are less likely to immediately enroll in college than White or Asian students. Gaps in college enrollment are particularly large for four-year college enrollment.^{33,34}

◆ 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.^{35,36} In Rhode Island during the 2018-2019 school year, students of color received 56% of all disciplinary actions, although they made up only 45% of the student population.³⁷



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 2000.³⁸
 - ◆ 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.³⁹
 - ◆ Rhode Island's Latino children are ranked lowest in the nation on the Race for Results Opportunity Index that measures indicators of child opportunity, including health, education, and economic well-being.⁴⁰
- ### Economics
- ◆ Between 2014 and 2018, 35% of Rhode Island's Hispanic children were living in poverty, compared to 28% of Hispanic children nationally. During that same time period, the median family income for Hispanics in Rhode Island was \$40,624, compared to \$81,822 overall in Rhode Island.⁴¹
- ### Health
- ◆ In Rhode Island between 2014 and 2018, 18.2% of Hispanic babies were born to women who received delayed or no prenatal care, compared with 15.9% of all babies in the state.⁴²
 - ◆ Between 2014 and 2018, Hispanic teens ages 15 to 19 in Rhode Island had a birth rate that was more than twice as high as the overall teen birth rate (31.7 per 1,000 Hispanic teens ages 15 to 19 compared to 14.0 per 1,000 for all teens).⁴³
- ### Education
- ◆ The four-year high school graduation rate among Hispanic youth in the class of 2019 was 76%, compared to Rhode Island's four-year high school graduation rate for all students of 84%.⁴⁴
 - ◆ The achievement gap between White and Latino students in Rhode Island is among the largest in the U.S.⁴⁵

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