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DESTINATION: RHODE ISLAND DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION IN THE OCEAN STATE

**STATEWIDE PLANNING PROGRAM
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This Technical Paper is one of a series prepared by the Statewide Planning Program. They all present information developed through planning activities to state and federal agencies, local governments and the public.

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ABSTRACT

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ABSTRACT: This paper presents demographic information about people who have recently moved into Rhode Island from other countries and from other states. It also presents information about those who have recently moved out of Rhode Island, and those who have moved entirely within state borders.

PREFACE

The purpose of this Technical Paper is to provide policymakers and others with the latest information available on numbers and characteristics of people who are moving into and out of Rhode Island. Statewide Planning has presented both domestic and international migration data, paying special attention to information that may best provide the most comprehensive picture of our state's ever-changing population.

Rhode Island' population increased by 44,855 between the last two decennial censuses. That number represents much more than the answer to a simple mathematical equation that determines the difference between two point-in-time population counts. It reflects a population in a continuous state of flux. It is made up of people who moved into Rhode Island and people who moved out of Rhode Island. It includes 134,690 births and 96,093 deaths. It is a number that represents the ever- changing face of Rhode Island.

Rhode Island continues to expand its population base, albeit slightly, while its geography remains static. The impact of this equation as it relates to any number of life-affecting issues will reveal consequences to our quality of life and the quality of life of our children, our grandchildren, and many generations into the future.

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INTRODUCTION

Much has been written lately on the issue of immigration, usually detailing the costs of illegal immigration or lambasting public policy that does little to address concerns about the flow of undocumented foreigners crossing our borders

And much has been written lately about the impact of people from other states – predominantly Massachusetts - moving to Rhode Island because of its more affordable housing market and relatively easy access to the Boston area business community

And much has been written lately about the impact of students enrolling in public schools outside their home district, and of the effects of migration from urban centers to rural communities throughout Rhode Island.

Whether we're discussing migration on a national, state, or local level, we're frequently relying on anecdotal information for communicating our concerns about the size and impact of domestic and international migration; often because statistics that could inform key debates are difficult to locate, difficult to interpret, and often times out-of-date.

It is the intent of this publication to present demographic information about the people who have moved to Rhode Island from other countries and states to make Rhode Island their home. It will also discuss the almost 300,000 people who have relocated entirely within our state borders.

Using data captured in the decennial census, the Census Bureau has been able to determine how many of us moved during the last five years of the twentieth century (1995-2000). Data from the domestic net migration component of the U.S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program presents more recent patterns of population redistribution among the states. This report examines that data – and data made available from other sources - to present a detailed look at people on the move, and specifically, how that movement impacts the population and demographics of Rhode Island.

Data Sources

This report presents data extrapolated from the 2000 Census, the 2005 American Community Survey (ACS), the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration, and the Rhode Island Department of Health. Ratios developed from data extracted from the 2000 Census are based on total population, including persons residing in Group Quarters (ie; correctional institutions, nursing homes, dormitories, homeless shelters, etc.). ACS data are based on a sample of the population in occupied housing units and do not include persons residing in Group Quarters. Accordingly, comparison of data between the two sources is limited. Additionally, ACS data are based on a sample of the population and are therefore subject to sampling variability.

Limitations of data

The U.S. Census Bureau is the federal agency responsible for the enumeration of the population every ten years via a decennial census, and for computing estimates of the population annually. Results of these decennial and annual operations are made available for governmental and public use and application.

Statewide Planning acknowledges that the statistics in this report may not necessarily represent the total number of persons who have migrated from other countries, from other states, and from within state, as some individuals who had moved may have died between enumeration of decennial censuses, and some who moved may have returned to their original home country, state or community during the intervening years. Others may have moved to places outside the United States.

It is the intent of the Census Bureau to count every person residing in this country, whether they are citizens or immigrants - here legally or illegally. Despite the monumental and costly efforts employed by the Census Bureau to count every individual, people who are here illegally may “hide” from census enumerators – regardless of attempts to allay fears of deportation or other retribution. Some individuals may therefore have reservations about the accuracy of census data, especially as it relates to migration and immigration.

It is the intent of this report to present information about the migration and immigration of populations that have been individually counted or statistically computed by the U.S. Census Bureau. All persons residing in the United States at the time of enumeration of the decennial census, regardless of nativity or citizenship status, are included in all official census data sets released by the federal government. Accordingly, data pertaining to immigrant populations includes persons of both legal and illegal status.

The Census Bureau provides information on the size of the foreign-born population. However, decennial census and survey data on the foreign-born have not been evaluated with respect to coverage, misreporting of nativity, and non-response. Moreover, there are no separate data categories for legal and illegal status. The inability to differentiate between key subgroups of the foreign-born population is important from a policy perspective because virtually all laws on immigration are based on specific legal status.

Acknowledging the potential limitations identified above, Statewide Planning has confined the information presented in this report to data collected and disseminated by the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services. This report is limited to current federal data and presents a statistically and demographically comprehensive look at the people who cross our borders; our national borders, our state borders, and our city and town borders.

Terminology

Domestic Migration: The movement of persons within the United States; from one state to another, from one county to another, or from one house to another within the same town or county.

In-migration: The movement of people into a specified geographic location.

Out-migration: The movement of people out of a specified geographic location.

Net migration: The difference between in-migration and out-migration of a specified geographic location within a given period of time.

International Migration (or immigration): The movement of people into another country. Some immigration is legal and some is illegal. Mechanisms permitting legal immigration consist of at least three components – family, employment, and humanitarian. Illegal immigration can be defined as entering another country without knowledge and authorization of immigration authorities.

Foreign-born: Refers to anyone who is not a U.S. citizen at birth. This includes naturalized U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents (immigrants), temporary migrants (such as foreign students), refugees, and people illegally present in the United States.

Native: Refers to anyone born in the United States or a U.S. Island Area such as Puerto Rico, or born abroad of a U.S. citizen parent.

DOMESTIC MIGRATION

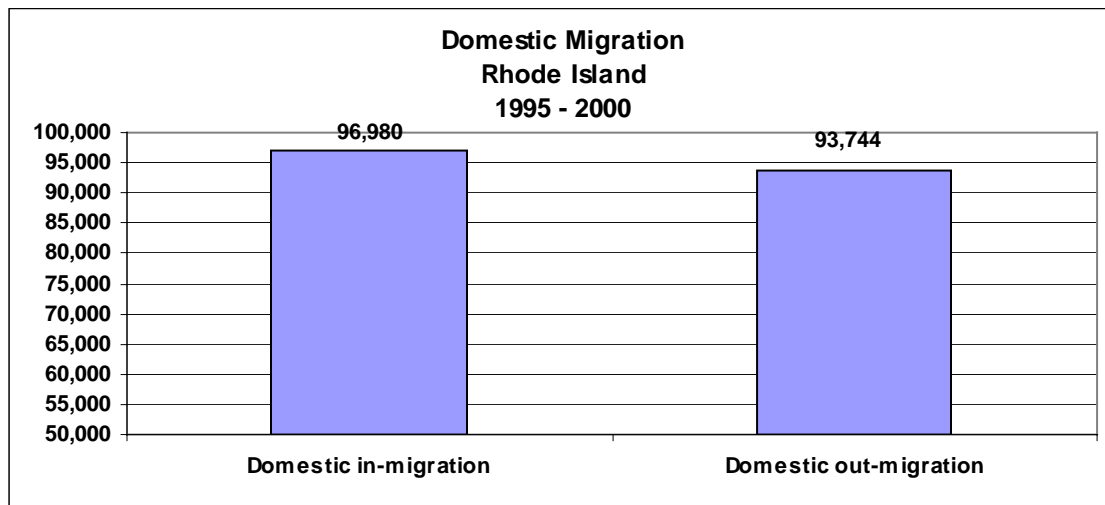
State-to-State Migration

America is a mobile society. During the five years between 1995 and 2000, fifty million Americans packed up their belongings and moved to a new home. This astonishing number includes the more than 27 million people who moved from one house to another within the same state and the more than 22 million who moved from one state to another.

Although population growth between 1995 and 2000 varied widely from state to state, the U.S. Census Bureau reports that every state gained population during that period, primarily a result of migration, both domestic and international.

In Rhode Island, domestic migration from across the country accounted for 96,980 new residents during the last five years of the twentieth century. That increase however, was offset by an almost equal number (93,744) of individuals moving out of Rhode Island to another state (see figure 1).

FIGURE 1

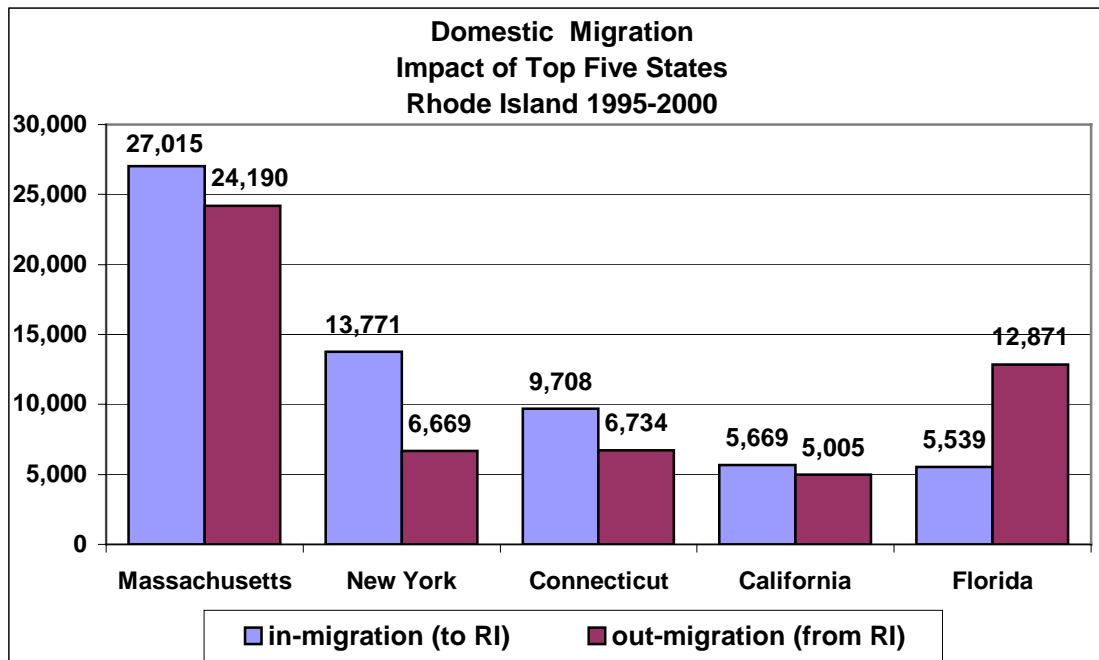


Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Graphic: RI Statewide Planning

For many states, migration to and from other states occurs most often with adjacent or neighboring states. For example, the largest single segment of Rhode Island's domestic in-migration (27,015) was *from* Massachusetts. Meanwhile, the largest single segment of Rhode Island's domestic out-migration (24,190) was *to* Massachusetts. The top three states that share Rhode Island's "cross-over" domestic migration are Massachusetts, New York, and Connecticut. Earning fourth and fifth place among states with large numbers of "cross-over" migration with Rhode Island are California and Florida. These five states are responsible for over half of all domestic migration to and from Rhode Island, resulting in a net domestic in-migration of 6,233 (see Figure 2 & Appendixes 1 & 2).

FIGURE 2



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Graphic: RI Statewide Planning

Two of these five states stand out by exhibiting a greater disproportionate relationship between in and out migration; New York and Florida.

The larger number of people comprising the in-migration from New York to Rhode Island is likely a result of secondary migration. Secondary migration refers to the domestic migration of international immigrants after their initial arrival to this country. Because of the way the Census Bureau captures information on migration, the data used to denote secondary migration may not necessarily be the first move after arrival in the U.S., but may be the second, third, or fourth move within the five year period used to determine migration. Immigrants initially arriving in New York may later decide to leave the Big Apple to fulfill any number of needs (ie; be closer to family and friends, seek better job opportunities, access social services).

The largest out-migration from Rhode Island to Florida most likely are retirees in search of a warmer climate away from the cold and ice of New England winters. This group of domestic migrants is discussed further in the next section.

Domestic Migration by Age

Younger Rhode Islanders are more likely to move than their older counterparts. Almost 45 percent of non-elderly residents relocated from 1995 to 2000; 25 percent of those who moved relocated out-of-state. As evidence that Rhode Islanders are substantially less likely to move during their senior years, only 17.5 percent of Rhode Island's elderly moved during the last five years of the twentieth century. Although the numeric counts are dramatically different, almost the same percentage of elderly and non-elderly movers relocated out-of-state (22.9% and 25.2% respectively) between 1995 and 2000 (see Table 1).

TABLE 1

Domestic Out-Migration from Rhode Island 1995 - 2000	Number of Persons	As a Percentage of total	As a percentage of movers
Total non-elderly population*	807,236		
Movers	360,804	44.7%	
Moved out of RI	90,893	11.3%	25.2%
Total elderly population	152,402		
Movers	26,625	17.5%	
Moved out of RI	6,087	4.0%	22.9%

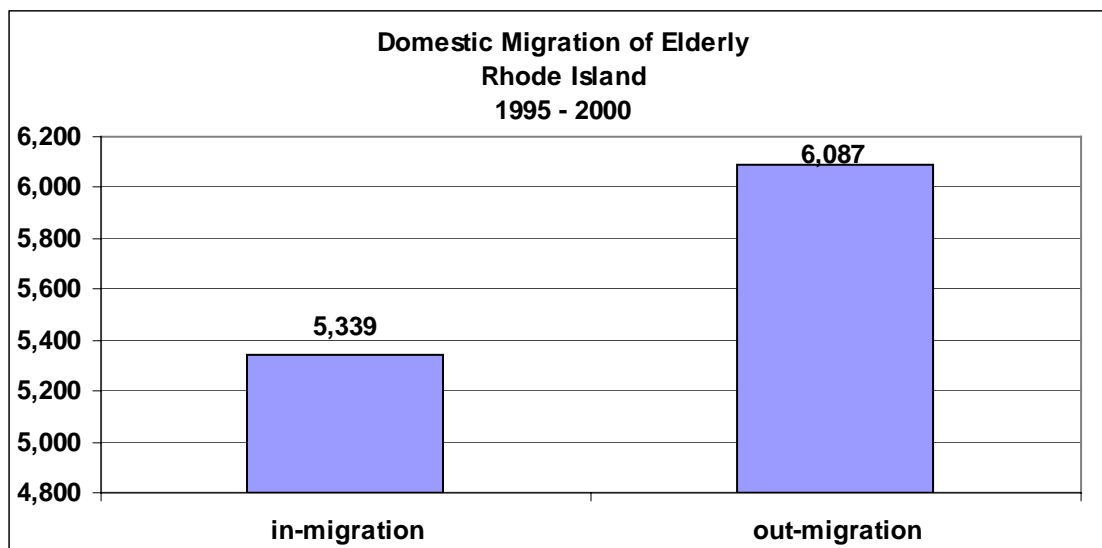
* Ages 5 to 64

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

More than 19 percent of all Rhode Islanders who headed for Florida between 1995 and 2000 were 65 years of age and older. Of the five states that have the most influence on Rhode Island's domestic migration flow, only two, Florida and California, exerted net out-migration of elderly residents from Rhode Island. Cross-over migration from Massachusetts, Connecticut and New York each resulted in net in-migration of elderly to Rhode Island.

Even with the inclusion of net in-migration resulting from those states mentioned above, more elderly individuals moved out of Rhode Island between 1995 and 2000 than moved into the Ocean State, rendering a total net out-migration of 748 (see Figure 3).

FIGURE 3

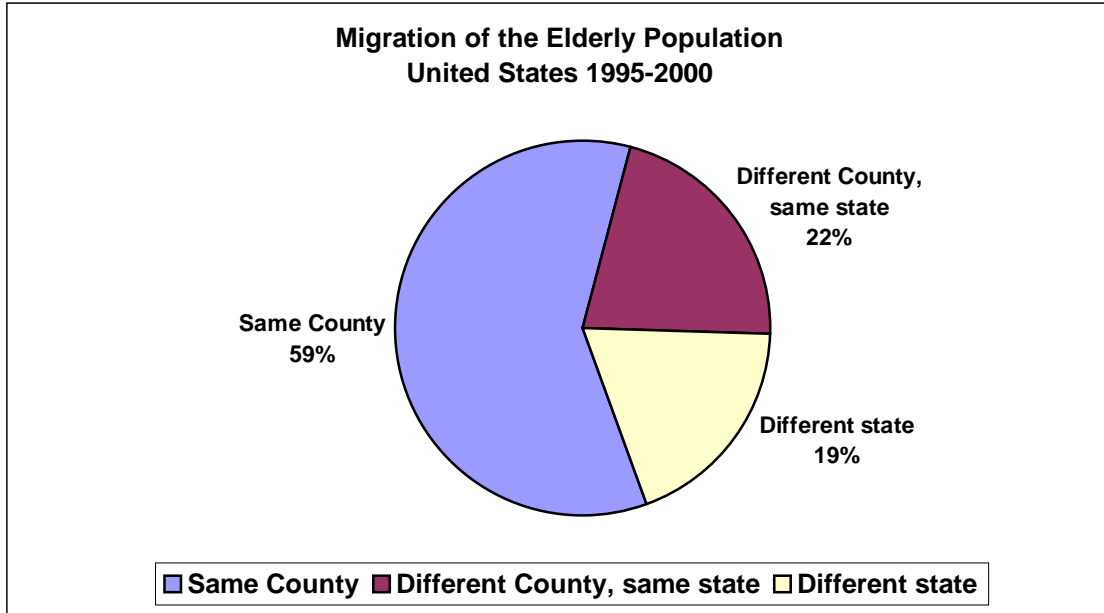


Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Graphic: RI Statewide Planning

National data indicate that the largest single segment of the elderly who moved between 1995 and 2000 stayed within the same county. The second largest group moved to a different county but stayed within the same state. Only 19 percent moved out-of-state (see Figure 4).

FIGURE 4

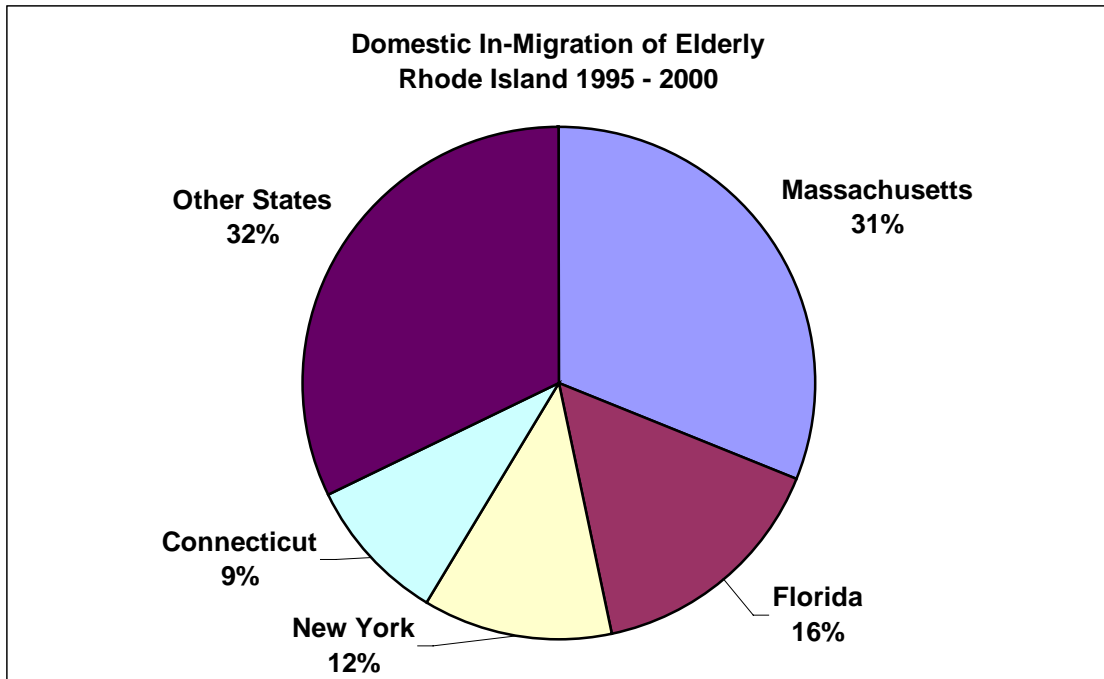


Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Graphic: RI Statewide Planning

The single largest majority of elderly persons who moved to Rhode Island between 1995 and 2000 (5,524) came from Massachusetts (1,716). Other elderly persons who migrated to the Ocean State in larger numbers came from Florida (861), New York (667) and Connecticut (505). The other elderly in-migrants (1,777) came from the remaining states, although thirteen states provided no elderly in-migrants to Rhode Island during that time (see Figure 5).

FIGURE 5

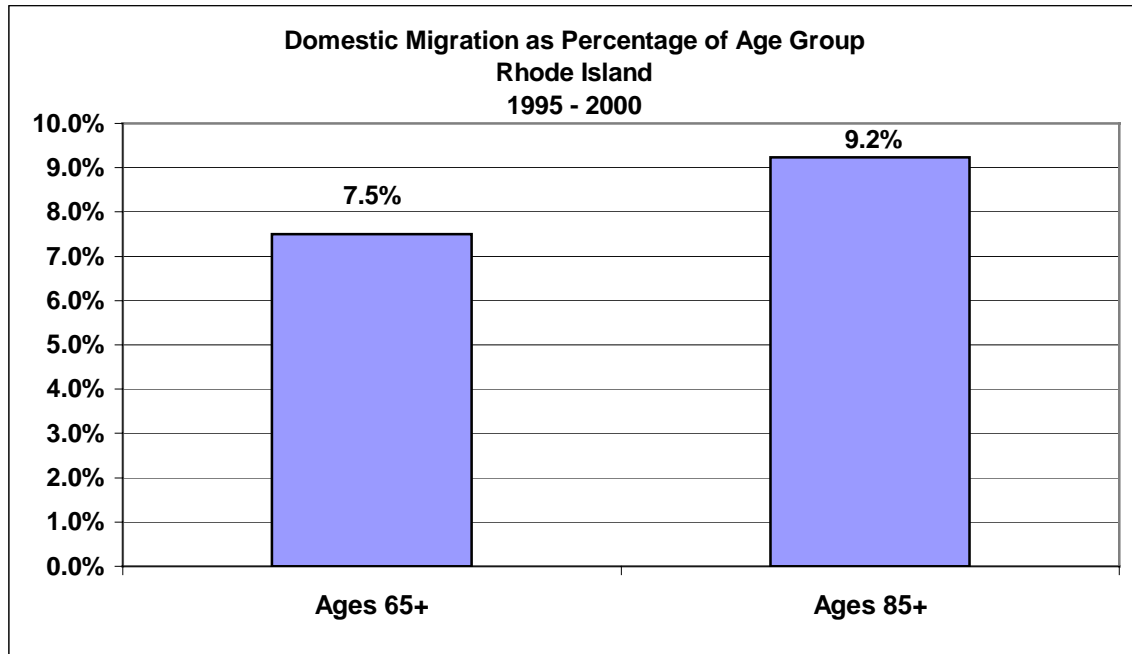


Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Graphic: RI Statewide Planning

Among the elderly population, the “frail elderly” (85 and older) are the most mobile. Census data reveals that while 7.5 percent of elderly (persons 65 and older) moved into or out of Rhode Island between 1995 and 2000, the percentage of frail elderly who moved *into* or *out-of* state was larger (9.2%) (see Figure 6).

FIGURE 6



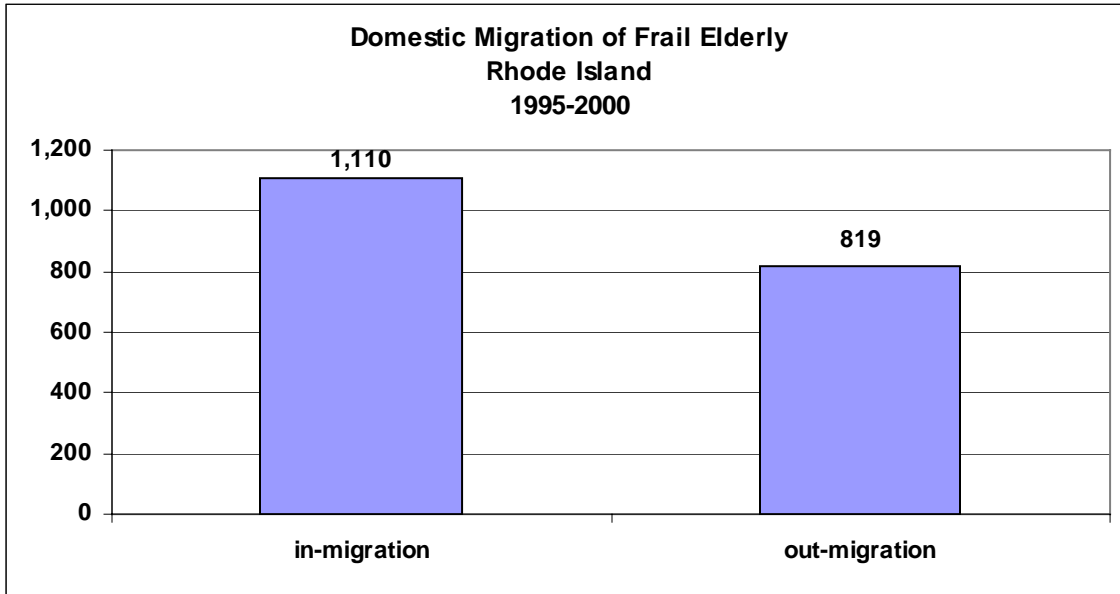
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Graphic: RI Statewide Planning

Between 1995 and 2000, almost one-third of the nation’s frail elderly moved. At an advanced age, health concerns often force people to move into assisted living or nursing facilities, or to move in with family members. Although the census does not ask why people move, the data suggests that retirement is a less powerful stimulus to migration than increasing frailty and the need for familial assistance in one’s old age.

At the national level, the U.S. Census Bureau reports that there is some evidence of *return migration* of the frail elderly. In other words, a certain percentage of the elderly who move to warmer climates at retirement may eventually return to their state of origin upon reaching more advanced years, perhaps to be closer to family - from whom they may expect to receive assistance in dealing with complications commonly associated with old age. This may explain the net *in*-migration of frail elderly to Rhode Island during the last five years of the twentieth century, in contrast to the net *out*-migration of elderly (all persons 65 and older) identified in the 2000 census (see Figure 7).

FIGURE 7

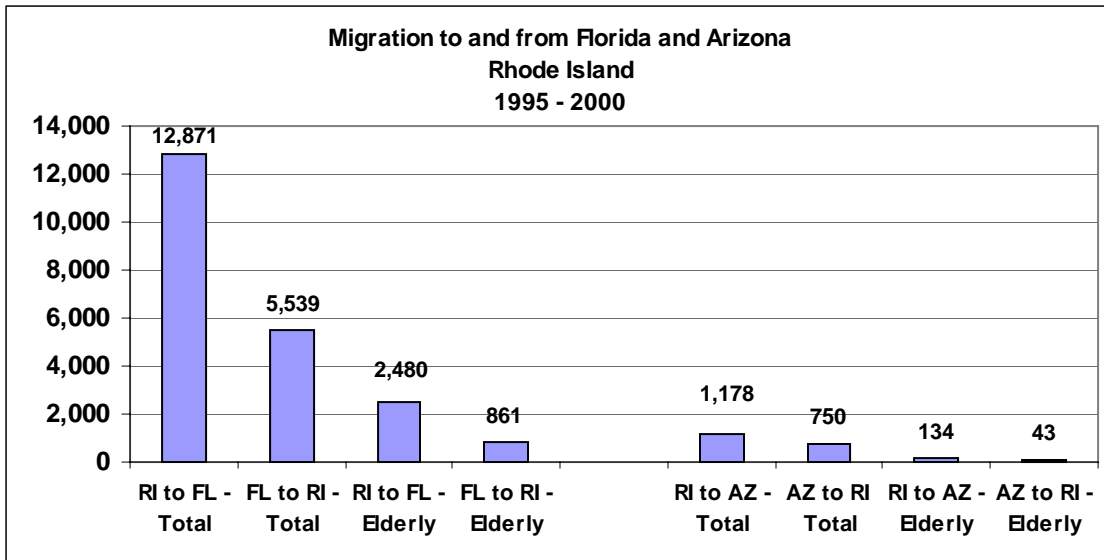


Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Graphic: RI Statewide Planning

Data from the last decennial census reveal that while 2,480 elderly Rhode Islanders relocated to Florida between 1995 and 2000, 861 elderly Floridians took up residency in the Ocean State. Another warm-weather state appealing to elderly citizens is Arizona. During the last five years of the twentieth century, 134 elderly Rhode Islanders moved to the Grand Canyon State, and 43 Arizonians relocated northeastward to the nation's smallest state (see Figure 8).

FIGURE 8



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Graphic: RI Statewide Planning

Migration of the older population is of interest to researchers, government entities, public agencies and other organizations because of the potential effects on the economic, social, and demographic composition of states and local communities. The concern for government and health officials, for example, is that many elderly, especially frail elderly, are likely to require expensive medical support systems, either through homecare

or nursing facilities. As personal funds diminish, taxpayer supported Medicaid dollars become the primary source of health care funding for many elderly residents.

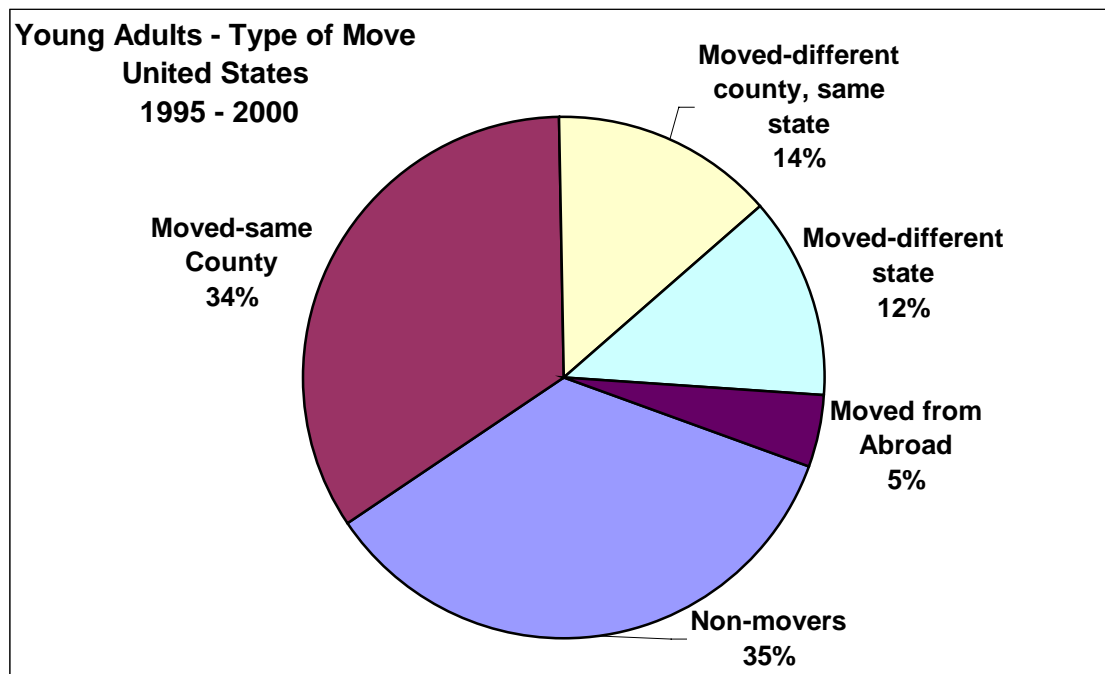
Persons of middle age (55 to 64) are within sight of retirement, and some may decide to retire early. Census data reveals this group is somewhat more likely to move than the elderly, but much less likely to move than their younger counterparts. Nationally, only 26 percent of the middle-aged population moved between 1995 and 2000.

The elderly and middle-aged are not the only people who migrate from one state to another. As evidence, the Census Bureau reports that the median age of all persons who moved to Rhode Island from another state in 2004 was 29.3 years, considerably younger than the median age of the resident population, pegged at 38.1 years.

Young adults (ages 25 – 39) represent a significant share of domestic migration. Their decisions to migrate are likely job-related, housing-related or family-related, but other factors may also bear influence. The migration of young adults carries with it many varying prospects for change. One such prospect is the potential of future population growth through child-bearing, affecting the need for public schools and related services. Another is that young adults, especially those who are college educated, often play a key role in the rejuvenation of economically depressed urban areas.

National data conveying the patterns of mobility among Americans is strongest among young adults. Statistics reveal that 65 percent of persons between the ages of 25 and 39 relocated between the years 1995 and 2000. For many, their moves were geographically limited; the single largest percentage (34%) of young movers relocated within the same county, 14 percent moved to a different county but stayed within the same state, and 12 percent (8 million young adults) ventured to move out-of-state (see figure 9).

FIGURE 9

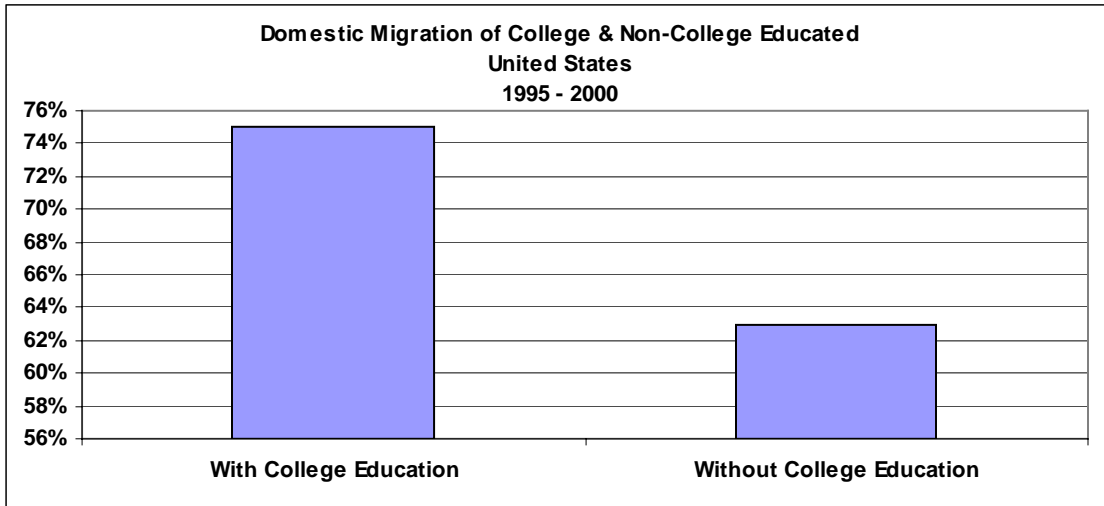


Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Graphic: RI Statewide Planning

Single young adults with a college degree are more likely to move than their counterparts without a degree. National statistics reveal that 75 percent of all single college educated adults between the ages of 25 and 39 relocated between 1995 and 2000, compared to only 63 percent for non-college contemporaries (see Figure 10). One caveat to keep in mind when discussing these data is that some of the individuals included in the data may be college students returning to their home states upon graduation.

FIGURE 10

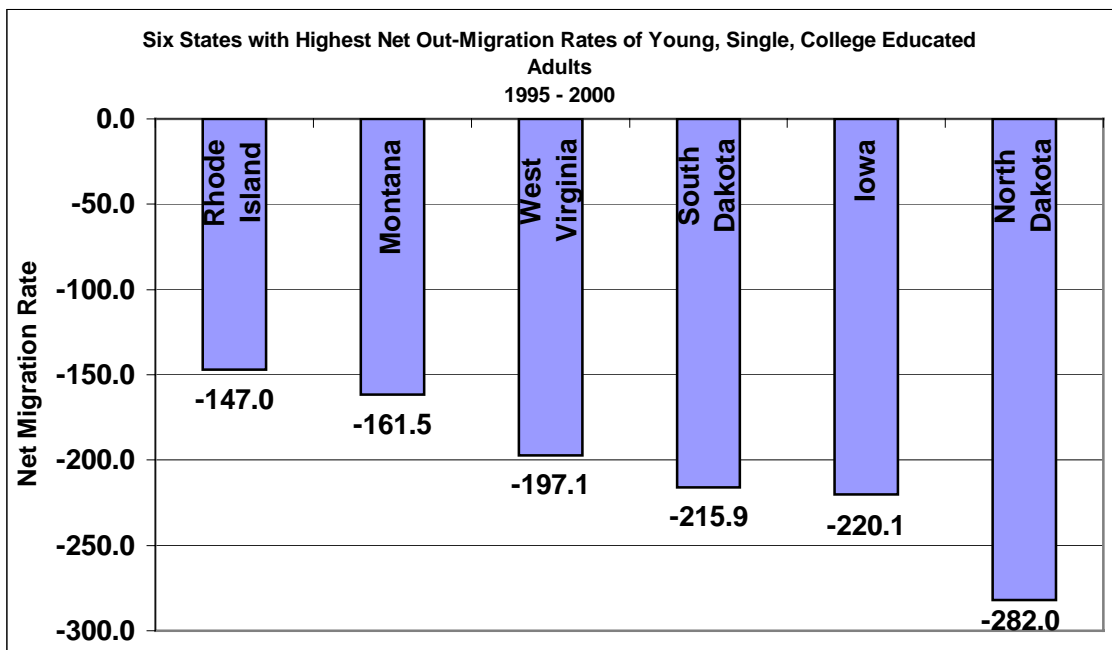


Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Graphic: RI Statewide Planning

Rhode Island's net migration rate of single college educated adults ranks sixth "highest" among the thirty-three states with negative migration rates (of single college educated adults) (see figure 11). A negative migration rate occurs when the number of out-migrants exceeds the number of in-migrants during a specified period.

FIGURE 11



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

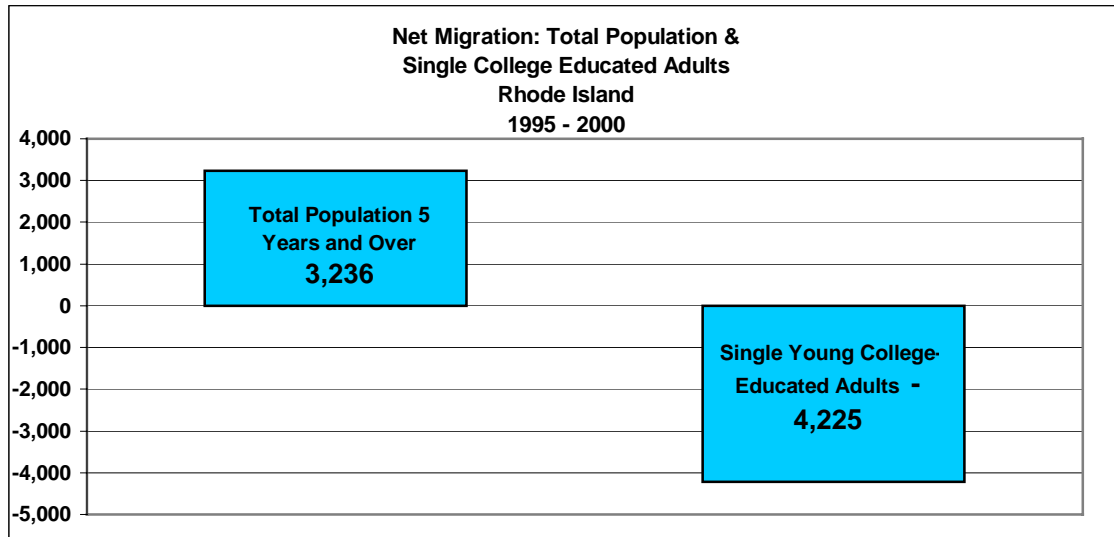
Graphic: RI Statewide Planning

When young educated adults move into an area, they often bring with them a certain measure of vitality and stimulus that can echo into multiple areas of the economy, from finance to construction and rehabilitation, from wholesale to retail businesses, and to the improvement of the local infrastructure. The influx of young college educated adults into urban areas can often stimulate economic development and services that might not otherwise exist.

The Ocean State was the destination of 6,526 young and single college educated adults between 1995 and 2000. However, during those same five years, Rhode Island witnessed 10,751 of its best and brightest move out of state. In fact, all New England states fell into the negative net-migration category for this population group.

Figure 12 visually illustrates the dramatic impact of net out-migration of young, single college educated people from Rhode Island in contrast to the net in-migration of all persons ages 5 and over.

FIGURE 12



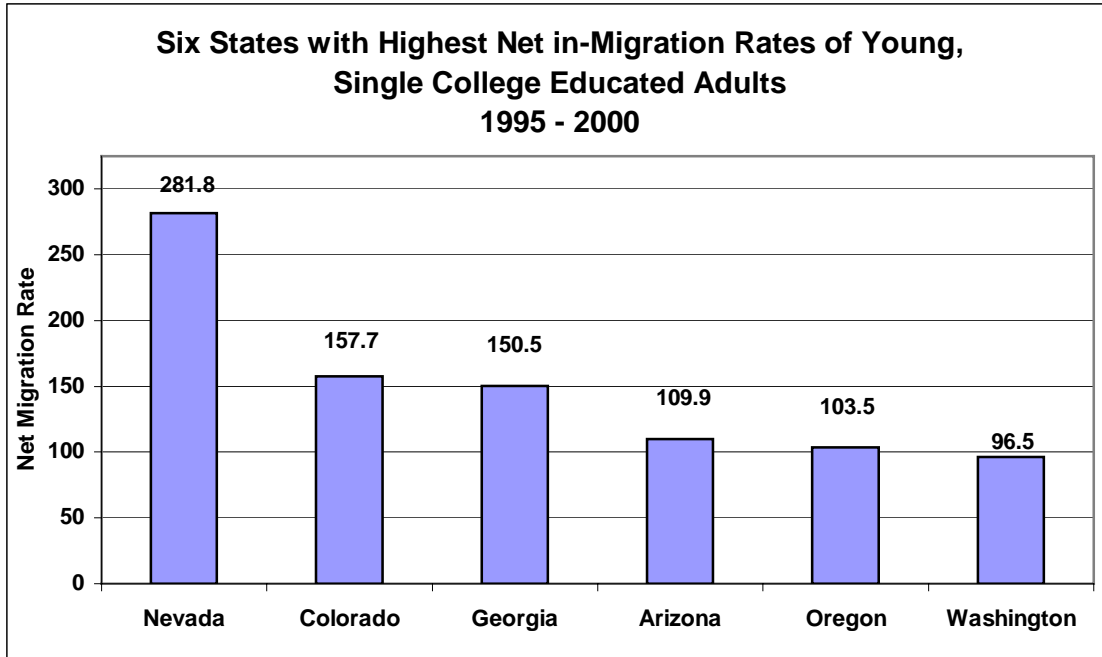
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Graphic: RI Statewide Planning

The grim side to these statistics is that Rhode Island’s young educated adults are leaving the Ocean State and moving to other states where – presumably - there may be better opportunities for brighter economic futures.

An interesting combination of states makes up the list of twenty destinations that incurred positive net migration of single college educated adults from across the country between 1995 and 2000. Topping the list is Nevada, followed by Colorado, Georgia, Arizona, Oregon, and Washington. Even the State of Alaska – “The Last Frontier” - placed eleventh among that group (see Figure 13).

FIGURE 13



Net migration rate is the 1995-2000 net migration divided by 1995 population multiplied by 1,000.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Graphic: RI Statewide Planning

The obvious conclusion that may be drawn from the data is that Rhode Island has experienced a significant net out-migration of young, single, college educated adults during the last five years of the twentieth century, especially when compared to the state's overall migration activity.

There are undoubtedly many reasons for the exodus from Rhode Island, but explicit data is not available to provide a definitive explanation. At best, we rely on anecdotal accounts from friends and relatives who have left Rhode Island to investigate opportunities elsewhere. Some of these anecdotes suggest today's young people believe that economies – and therefore job opportunities - are better in other states. One need only pick up a national newspaper or magazine and be enticed by headlines such as: *America's Most Desirable Places to Live*, *The Ten Best Cities in the U.S.*, *The Nation's most Affordable Housing Markets*, or *Where to Find the Highest Paying Jobs*.

There is another driving factor that is often dismissed by many as unfounded, too philosophical, or without credence . . . "Perception". Perception is a powerful component in the formation of an idea, and frequently influences crucial decisions. The constant barrage of negative news reports about Rhode Island politics, high unemployment rates, and a perpetual New England economic slump may create the perception in young minds that if they are going to succeed in life, they are going to have to look elsewhere to make their dreams come true.

On the other hand, some social economists who study the pulse of Rhode Island are inspired by the apparent rebirth of the capital city and the social and economic vibrancy of its downtown district. Many of the new "urbanites" are young college educated adults who have decided to invest in their futures by investing in Providence. These spirited entrepreneurs are opening boutiques, up-scaled shops, and restaurants in what has for too

long been a depressed downtown commercial district. In addition to revitalizing the urban business district, artists working in various media are taking up residence in upper stories of down-city buildings converted into New York-style loft apartments.

These events have not gone unnoticed. MSNBC news recently published a list of *The Top Ten Underrated U.S. Cities*, and Providence scored among them. Perhaps the vibrancy of the Capital City will entice young college educated people to stay in Rhode Island, and if word should spread, perhaps the Renaissance City will lure others from throughout the country to relocated to the Ocean State.

How College Students are Represented in Migration Data

The National Bureau of Economic Research recently issued a working paper exploring the divergence of interests between universities and the states in which they are located. That report contends “Attending a university in a particular state increases graduates’ likelihood of locating in the state as adults because they develop local connections”. It further reports “States have an interest in using their ... universities as tools to encourage development” as “University study increases students’ human capital” and “Graduates with high levels of human capital contribute to their local economies by starting their own businesses, attracting other businesses to the area, and raising wages generally”.

In contrast, a statement issued by the Council of Governments in Pennsylvania pronounced “The trend of students moving out of state after graduating has become an increasing concern. We are trying to attract current ... residents, as well as out-of-state students who attend school here, to stay here and find a job”. These concerns are likely shared by all states hoping to retain their home-grown college graduates while at the same time enticing out-of-state graduates to relocate to their state and contribute to the growth of their state’s economy. But little is known about graduates once they receive their diplomas; least of all, where they live.

Rhode Island is host to more than 100,000 individuals from around the state, from around the country, and from around the world who have enrolled in any one of the Ocean State’s twelve colleges and universities or vocational and technical institutions. These young people represent 9.5 percent of Rhode Island’s total population in the 2000 Census.

Approximately one-third of the student-body live on campus, and an unknown percentage live in off-campus housing (ie; private-market rental units usually shared by several students). It is most likely that at least half of all students are commuters, driving from home to school each day.

[The 2000 Census Profile of Social Characteristics identifies 84,000 individuals enrolled in college or graduate school in 2000. These data specifically exclude persons attending vocational, business, and technical institutions.]

Geographic mobility data from the 2000 census is based on a person’s place of residence in 1995 and in 2000. Accordingly, it does not capture moves occurring between those dates, nor does it identity people who move post 1995 and return to their initial place of residence prior to April 1, 2000. This would be the case with many students who lived

away during their college years between 1995 and 2000, and who returned home before the millennium census was conducted.

Students away at school in 1995 who graduated and returned home post 1995, and those who began their college education post 1995 (and who would be graduating post April 1, 2000) are identified as persons who relocated between 1995 and 2000.

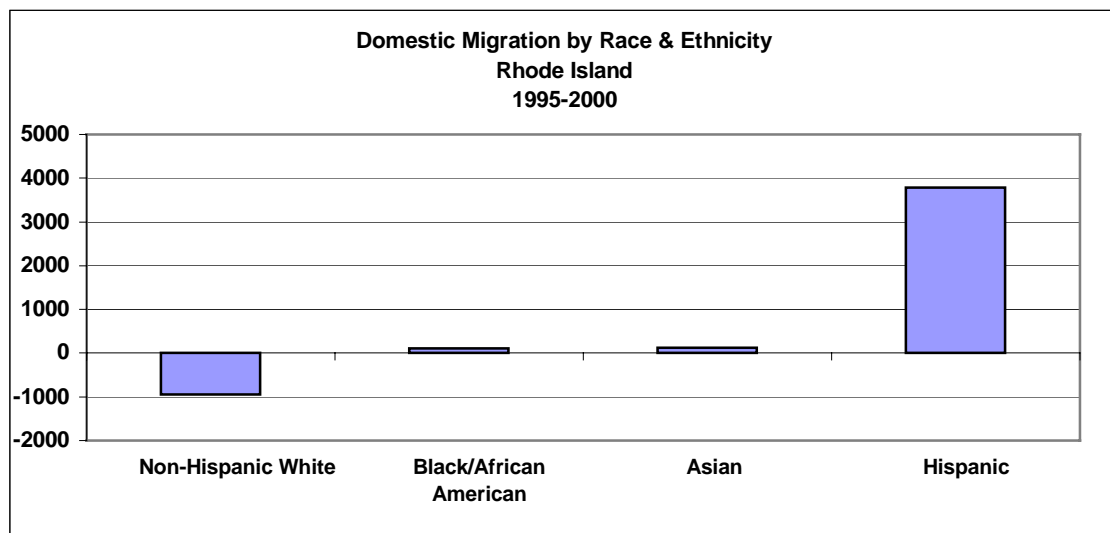
Those who graduated and returned home sometime between 1995 and 2000 are identified in the 2000 census as “college educated”. They are also identified as a mover between 1995 and 2000 because their address in 1995 (at school) was different from their address in 2000 (at home). Those who began their college education post 1995 and were still pursuing their education as of April 1, 2000 are designated as movers between 1995 and 2000 because their address in 1995 (at home) was different from their address in 2000 (at school).

A certain number of the commuting students currently attending a post-secondary institution in Rhode Island may decide to remain in the Ocean State upon graduation simply because this is their home - this is where their families and friends live. Some may decide to move out of state. On the other hand, some students from out-of-state may develop an interest in Rhode Island and decide to make this their home upon graduation. Others will move back to their home state or to another state. All of them will ultimately make their decisions – and those decisions will be based primarily on personal or economic factors.

Domestic Migration by Race & Ethnicity

The decreasing presence of the non-Hispanic White population in Rhode Island is attributed to two factors: a lower birthrate among non-Hispanic White women and a net out-migration of non-Hispanic White residents. Between 1995 and 2000, Rhode Island experienced a net out-migration of 943 non-Hispanic Whites. During this same period Rhode Island also experienced a net in-migration of 111 Blacks, 117 Asians, and 3,780 Hispanics (see Figure 14). (Migration patterns affecting resident demographics are based on domestic migration only).

FIGURE 14



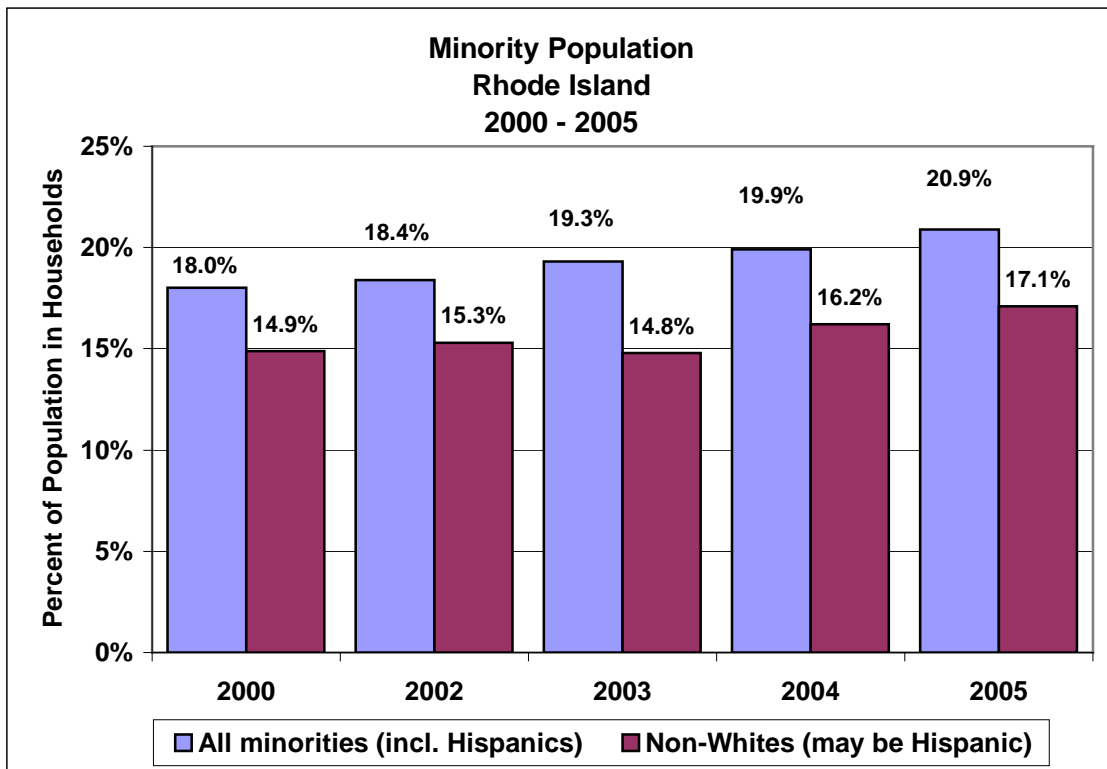
Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census

Graphic: RI Statewide Planning

More recent data is made available from the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS), which provides updated information extrapolated from the 2005 survey of 6,110 households in Rhode Island. The ACS provides data only for persons living in households. Accordingly, persons living in group-quarters are not included in the data counts.

The ACS data sets published since Census 2000 reveal a continuing increase in the minority populations within the Rhode Island demographic landscape. The ratio of minority persons living in households increased from 18.0 percent of the population in 2000 to 20.9 percent in 2005. Concurrently, the non-Hispanic White population decreased from 82.0 percent in 2000 to 79.1 percent in 2005. Additionally, persons living in households who identified themselves as being other than White and who may or may not be Hispanic increased from 14.9 percent in 2000 to 17.1 percent in 2005 (see Figure 15).

FIGURE 15



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

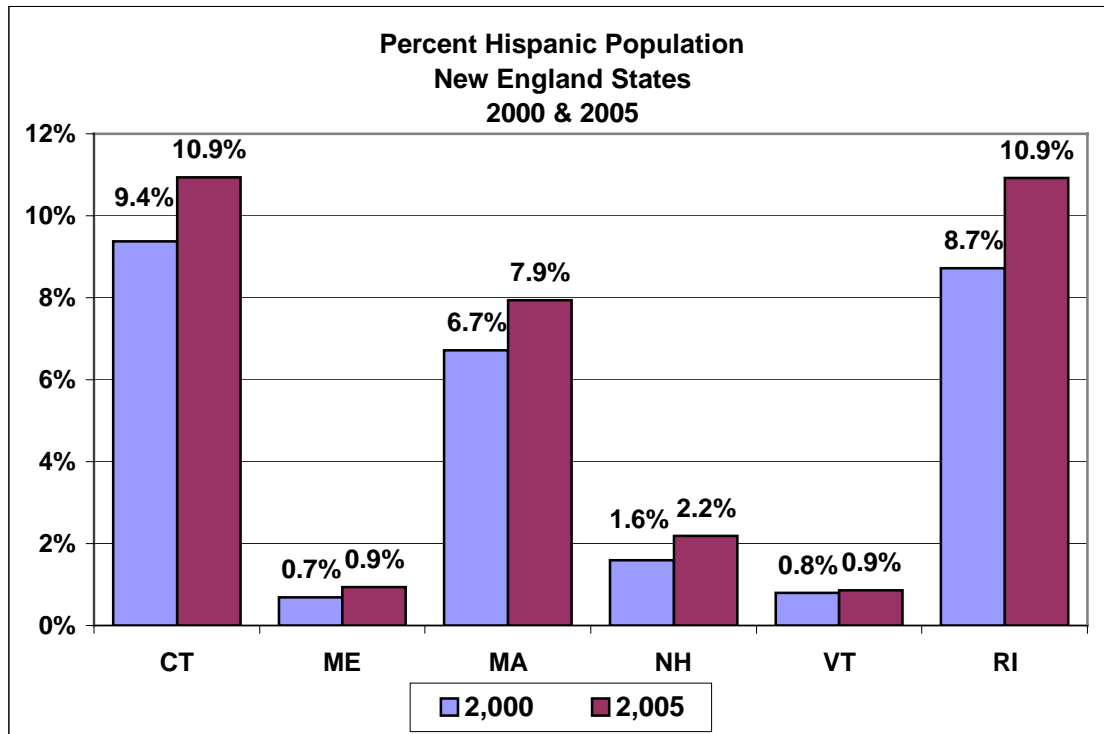
Graphic: RI Statewide Planning

The total population growth Rhode Island experienced between 1990 and 2000 was due entirely to the increase in the state’s Hispanic population. The same can be said for the population growth during the first five years of this decade; representing 8.8 percent of the 2000 household population, Hispanics account for 10.9 percent of the 2005 ACS count.

The ACS also presents data indicating continued out-migration of Rhode Island’s non-Hispanic White residents. This segment of the population decreased by almost 17,000 during the first five years of the new millennium, reducing its proportional representation from 82.0 percent in 2000 to 79.1 percent in 2005.

Rhode Island is not alone in the exodus of non-Hispanic Whites. One half of all states recorded negative net migration rates of non-Hispanic Whites, including two other New England states - Massachusetts and Connecticut. Concurrently, all six New England states experienced an increase in the number and percentage of Hispanics from 2000 to 2005; Massachusetts incurred the largest numerical increase (79,738) and Rhode Island incurred the largest percentage increase (2.2%) (see Figure 16).

FIGURE 16



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Graphic: RI Statewide Planning

In-State Migration

Almost half of Rhode Island's millennium population (5 years and older) had lived in a different house in 1995; 22 percent moved here from another state, 11 percent traveled from American territories off-shore or immigrated from foreign-countries, and the majority, 67 percent, relocated within state.

The City of Providence recorded the largest number (52,004) of in-state movers between 1995 and 2000, followed by Warwick (23,418), Cranston (22,752), Pawtucket (21,560), Woonsocket (13,924), and East Providence (12,732). All other communities each recorded less than 10,000 in-state movers. New Shoreham, Little Compton, and Foster received the fewest number of new residents resulting from in-state migration.

In-state migration can also be illustrated as a percentage of population. Although the City of Providence experienced the largest numerical change in population from in-state migration, it ranks seventh in percentage change (30.0%) behind West Warwick (33.4%), Exeter (32.7%), Woonsocket (32.2%), Central Falls (30.6%), Lincoln (30.5%), and Narragansett (30.2%) (see Table 2).

TABLE 2

**MOVED WITHIN STATE
RHODE ISLAND
1995 TO 2000**

City/town	Total Population	Moved within State*	
		Number	Percent
Barrington	16,819	3,161	18.8%
Bristol	22,469	5,486	24.4%
Burrillville	15,796	4,679	29.6%
Central Falls	18,928	5,792	30.6%
Charlestown	7,859	2,304	29.3%
Coventry	33,668	9,457	28.1%
Cranston	79,269	22,752	28.7%
Cumberland	31,840	7,615	23.9%
East Greenwich	12,948	2,999	23.2%
East Providence	48,688	12,732	26.2%
Exeter	6,045	1,974	32.7%
Foster	4,274	905	21.2%
Glocester	9,948	2,387	24.0%
Hopkinton	7,836	2,115	27.0%
Jamestown	5,622	1,481	26.3%
Johnston	28,195	7,725	27.4%
Lincoln	20,898	6,367	30.5%
Little Compton	3,593	753	21.0%
Middletown	17,334	3,832	22.1%
Narragansett	16,361	4,947	30.2%
Newport	26,475	7,406	28.0%
New Shoreham	1,010	223	22.1%
North Kingstown	26,326	7,401	28.1%
North Providence	32,411	9,553	29.5%
North Smithfield	10,618	2,203	20.7%
Pawtucket	72,958	21,560	29.6%
Portsmouth	17,149	3,715	21.7%
Providence	173,618	52,004	30.0%
Richmond	7,222	2,029	28.1%
Scituate	10,324	2,525	24.5%
Smithfield	20,613	5,263	25.5%
South Kingstown	27,921	7,863	28.2%
Tiverton	15,260	2,280	14.9%
Warren	11,360	2,939	25.9%
Warwick	85,808	23,418	27.3%
Westerly	22,966	5,673	24.7%
West Greenwich	5,085	1,130	22.2%
West Warwick	29,581	9,877	33.4%
Woonsocket	43,224	13,924	32.2%

*Persons who moved within Rhode Island between 1995 - 2000.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Relocating Within Rhode Island

Relocating does not necessarily mean moving great distances. For many, the desire to stay “close to home” is borne out in 2000 census data. These statistics reveal that almost twenty-nine percent of Rhode Island residents relocated within the state between 1995 and 2000; twenty-four percent moved within the same county and five percent moved from a different county - within state. Kent, Providence, and Washington Counties each record similar ratios of residents who relocated from within state (29%). Newport and Bristol Counties each recorded somewhat lower ratios (24%).

The community with the highest percentage of new residents resulting from in-state migration is West Warwick, with 35.3 percent of its residents having settled there after relocating within state – some relocating within the town’s own geographic boundaries. Tiverton ranked lowest (15.7%) in percentage of population resulting from in-state migration.

The City of Providence is home to the largest number of persons (52,004) who relocated within the State of Rhode Island between 1995 and 2000. Although the Cities of Warwick and Cranston each recorded less than half the number of in-state movers than had settled in the capitol city, they registered 23,418 and 22,752 respectively. The Towns of New Shoreham, Little Compton, and Foster each registered less than one thousand residents having relocated from within state (see Table 3).

TABLE 3

PERSONS WHO RELOCATED WITHIN STATE 1995 TO 2000 AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE 2000 RESIDENT POPULATION								
Barrington	3,161	19.6%	Burrillville	4,679	31.3%	Charlestown	2,304	30.9%
Bristol	5,486	25.4%	Central Falls	5,792	30.8%	Exeter	1,974	34.6%
Warren	2,939	27.2%	Cranston	22,752	29.9%	Hopkinton	2,115	28.6%
Bristol County	11,586	23.9%	Cumberland	7,615	25.3%	Narragansett	4,947	31.1%
Coventry	9,457	29.8%	East Providence	12,732	27.3%	New Shoreham	223	22.6%
East Greenwich	2,999	24.3%	Foster	905	22.2%	North Kingstown	7,401	29.9%
Warwick	23,418	28.7%	Glocester	2,387	25.4%	Richmond	2,029	30.5%
West Greenwich	1,130	24.0%	Johnston	7,725	28.8%	South Kingstown	7,863	29.0%
West Warwick	9,877	35.3%	Lincoln	6,367	31.9%	Westerly	5,673	26.1%
Kent County	46,881	29.6%	North Providence	9,553	30.2%	Washington County	34,529	29.4%
Jamestown	1,481	27.2%	North Smithfield	2,203	21.8%			
Little Compton	753	22.0%	Pawtucket	21,560	30.3%			
Middletown	3,832	22.7%	Providence	52,004	30.5%			
Newport	7,406	29.0%	Scituate	2,525	26.0%			
Portsmouth	3,715	22.8%	Smithfield	5,263	26.4%			
Tiverton	2,280	15.7%	Woonsocket	13,924	34.4%			
Newport County	19,467	23.7%	Providence County	177,986	29.6%	State of Rhode Island	290,449	28.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Relocating from Another County within Rhode Island

Ten percent of the people who resided in Kent County and Washington County at the time of enumeration of the 2000 census had lived in another county within Rhode Island in 1995. Those 27,214 individuals (15,837 in Kent County and 11,377 in Washington County) moved from Bristol County, Newport County and Providence County.

There is a certain degree of reciprocal movement between counties; albeit resulting in lower ratios for Bristol, Newport and Providence counties. Slightly more than 7 percent of Bristol County’s population in 2000 had lived in another county within state in 1995.

Recording even lower ratios, Newport County and Providence County registered 3.6 percent and 2.8 percent respectively (see Table 4).

TABLE 4

PERSONS WHO RELOCATED FROM ANOTHER COUNTY WITHIN STATE 1995 TO 2000 AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE 2000 RESIDENT POPULATION								
Barrington	1,604	10.0%	Burrillville	156	1.0%	Charlestown	568	7.6%
Bristol	1,189	5.5%	Central Falls	229	1.2%	Exeter	1,139	20.0%
Warren	763	7.1%	Cranston	4,323	5.7%	Hopkinton	450	6.1%
Bristol County	3,556	7.3%	Cumberland	455	1.5%	Narragansett	2,079	13.1%
Coventry	2,311	7.3%	East Providence	1,956	4.2%	New Shoreham	22	2.2%
East Greenwich	1,283	10.4%	Foster	203	5.0%	North Kingstown	2,953	11.9%
Warwick	8,881	10.9%	Glocester	289	3.1%	Richmond	907	13.6%
West Greenwich	464	9.9%	Johnston	554	2.1%	South Kingstown	2,739	10.1%
West Warwick	2,898	10.3%	Lincoln	313	1.6%	Westerly	520	2.4%
Kent County	15,837	10.0%	North Providence	563	1.8%	Washington County	11,377	9.7%
Jamestown	505	9.3%	North Smithfield	165	1.6%			
Little Compton	212	6.2%	Pawtucket	878	1.2%			
Middletown	326	1.9%	Providence	5,120	3.0%			
Newport	895	3.5%	Scituate	508	5.2%			
Portsmouth	646	4.0%	Smithfield	587	2.9%			
Tiverton	357	2.5%	Woonsocket	372	0.9%			
Newport County	2,941	3.6%	Providence County	16,671	2.8%	State of Rhode Island	50,382	5.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Ratios do not necessarily tell the whole story. Kent County recorded the highest ratio and Providence County the lowest. However, the number of people who moved to Providence County (16,661) since 1995 is slightly larger than the number who moved into Kent County (15,837). Recording 11,377 residents who had moved from another county within state since 1995, Washington County ranked third, Bristol County (3,556) ranked fourth and Newport County (2,941) ranked fifth.

Statewide, 50,382 people relocated in-state from one county to another. The City of Warwick received the largest number of new residents (8,881) as a result of in-state migration from another county between 1995 and 2000. Placing second in this category is the City of Providence (5,120), followed by the City of Cranston (4,323), the Town of North Kingstown (2,953), the Town of West Warwick (2,898) and the Town of South Kingstown (2,739).

Relocating from Same County within Rhode Island

Providence County ranks highest (26.9%) in the percentage of its residents in 2000 having lived elsewhere within the same county in 1995. Registering 20.1 percent, Newport County ranks second, and Washington County and Kent County place a close third and fourth, at 19.7 percent and 19.6 percent respectively. Bristol County registered the lowest percentage of population (16.6%) having lived elsewhere within the same county five years previous.

Statistically, Providence County recorded the largest number of its residents (161,315) having lived elsewhere within the same county in 1995; 46,884 lived in the capitol city, 20,682 in Pawtucket, 18,429 in Cranston, and 13,552 in Woonsocket. Home to the second largest number of residents having relocated from within the same county, Kent

County reports 31,044 of its year 2000 residents having moved within the county since 1995. Washington County ranks third (23,152), Newport County ranks fourth (16,526), and Bristol County ranks last (8,030) (see Table 5).

TABLE 5

PERSONS WHO RELOCATED WITHIN SAME COUNTY 1995 TO 2000 AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE 2000 RESIDENT POPULATION								
Barrington	1,557	9.7%	Burnillville	4,523	30.2%	Charlestown	1,736	23.3%
Bristol	4,297	19.9%	Central Falls	5,563	29.6%	Exeter	835	14.6%
Warren	2,176	20.2%	Cranston	18,429	24.2%	Hopkinton	1,665	22.5%
Bristol County	8,030	16.6%	Cumberland	7,160	23.8%	Narragansett	2,868	18.0%
Coventry	7,146	22.5%	East Providence	10,776	23.1%	New Shoreham	201	20.4%
East Greenwich	1,716	13.9%	Foster	702	17.2%	North Kingstown	4,448	18.0%
Warwick	14,537	17.8%	Glocester	2,098	22.3%	Richmond	1,122	16.9%
West Greenwich	666	14.1%	Johnston	7,171	26.7%	South Kingstown	5,124	18.9%
West Warwick	6,979	24.9%	Lincoln	6,054	30.3%	Westerly	5,153	23.7%
Kent County	31,044	19.6%	North Providence	8,990	28.4%	Washington County	23,152	19.7%
Jamestown	976	17.9%	North Smithfield	2,038	20.1%			
Little Compton	541	15.8%	Pawtucket	20,682	29.1%			
Middletown	3,506	20.8%	Providence	46,884	27.5%			
Newport	6,511	25.5%	Scituate	2,017	20.8%			
Portsmouth	3,069	18.8%	Smithfield	4,676	23.4%			
Tiverton	1,923	13.3%	Woonsocket	13,552	33.5%			
Newport County	16,526	20.1%	Providence County	161,315	26.9%	State of Rhode Island	240,067	23.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION (IMMIGRATION) AND THE FOREIGN-BORN

Because all children born in the U.S. to immigrant parents are by definition “natives”, the sole reason for the dramatic increase in the foreign-born population in the United States is new immigration. Accordingly, the growth in Rhode Island’s foreign-born population is caused both by new immigration from abroad and by the arrival of foreign immigrants relocating from other states.

The level of immigration and the size of the immigrant population have varied considerably over the years, decades, and centuries. In 1860, immigrants represented 21.4 percent of Rhode Island’s population, and by the turn of the century (1900), the foreign-born accounted for almost one-third (31.4%) of all persons living in the Ocean State.

At mid century (1950), the Census Bureau counted 113,395 foreign-born persons living in Rhode Island, representing 14.4 percent of the state’s population. The ratio of foreign-born declined during the next two decades, followed by four consecutive decades of an increasing presence of foreign-born residents. At the beginning of the twenty-first century, the U.S. Census Bureau counted 119,277 foreign-born individuals living in Rhode Island, representing 11.4 percent of the state’s total population (see Table 6).

TABLE 6

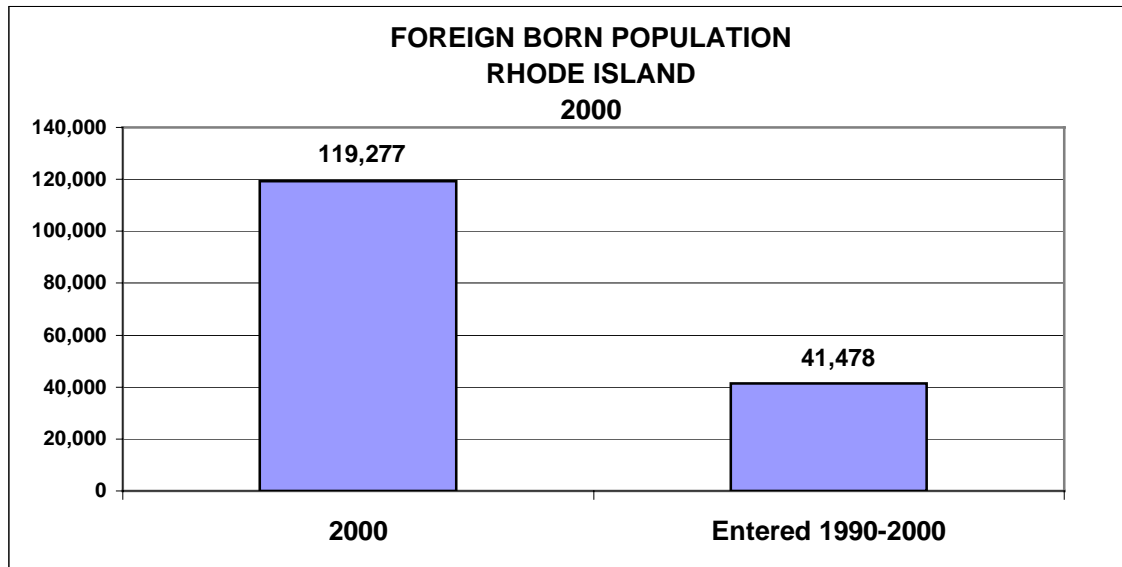
Rhode Island	Percent of Population Foreign-Born
1860	21.4 %
1900	31.4 %
1950	14.4 %
1960	10 %
1970	7.8 %
1980	8.9 %
1990	9.5 %
2000	11.4 %

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

More than one-third of all foreign-born persons living in Rhode Island at the time of enumeration of the 2000 Census arrived sometime during the decade preceding the new millennium (see Figure 17).

Every community in Rhode Island has experienced changes in its diversity and in its proportion of foreign-born. In some communities, such as the Town of Bristol, the number of foreign-born decreased only slightly during the last three decades of the twentieth century, while the native population increased 25 percent. In other communities, such as the City of Providence, the native population decreased 19 percent at the same time the foreign-born population swelled by 141 percent (see Table 7).

FIGURE 17



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Graphic: RI Statewide Planning

As the size of the immigrant population grows, understanding their migration patterns holds particular significance for states where net in-migration of foreign-born occurs in conjunction with net out-migration of native-born. In some states, including Rhode Island, data indicate that absent immigration of foreign-born, those states would have experienced a decline in population, the result of significant out-migration of native residents.

The City of Providence is home to more foreign-born residents than any other community in Rhode Island. Its 44,000 foreign-born constituents represent fully one-fourth the total population calling the capital city their home.

With fewer individuals of foreign extraction, the City of Central Falls however, ranks highest in the percentage of population born outside the U.S. With a decennial census count of 6,600, Central Falls ranks fifth in the number of foreign-born living within its boundaries. Those same individuals represent more than one-third (35.1%) the population living in the smallest community in the smallest state.

The City of Pawtucket, geographically pinned between Providence and Central Falls, ranks second in the number of foreign-born, and third in the percentage (23.4%) of population born outside the United States.

Fourteen other Rhode Island communities are home to foreign-born individuals representing more than five percent of the enumerated populations of each city or town. Two of those communities, East Providence and Bristol, record the largest ratios, each with foreign-born populations representing more than ten percent (and less than 14%) of their city and town totals.

The remaining communities all record less than five percent foreign-born residency; the Town of Glocester displaying the lowest ratio, and the Town of New Shoreham presenting the lowest 2000 census enumeration (see map on following page).

Figure 18

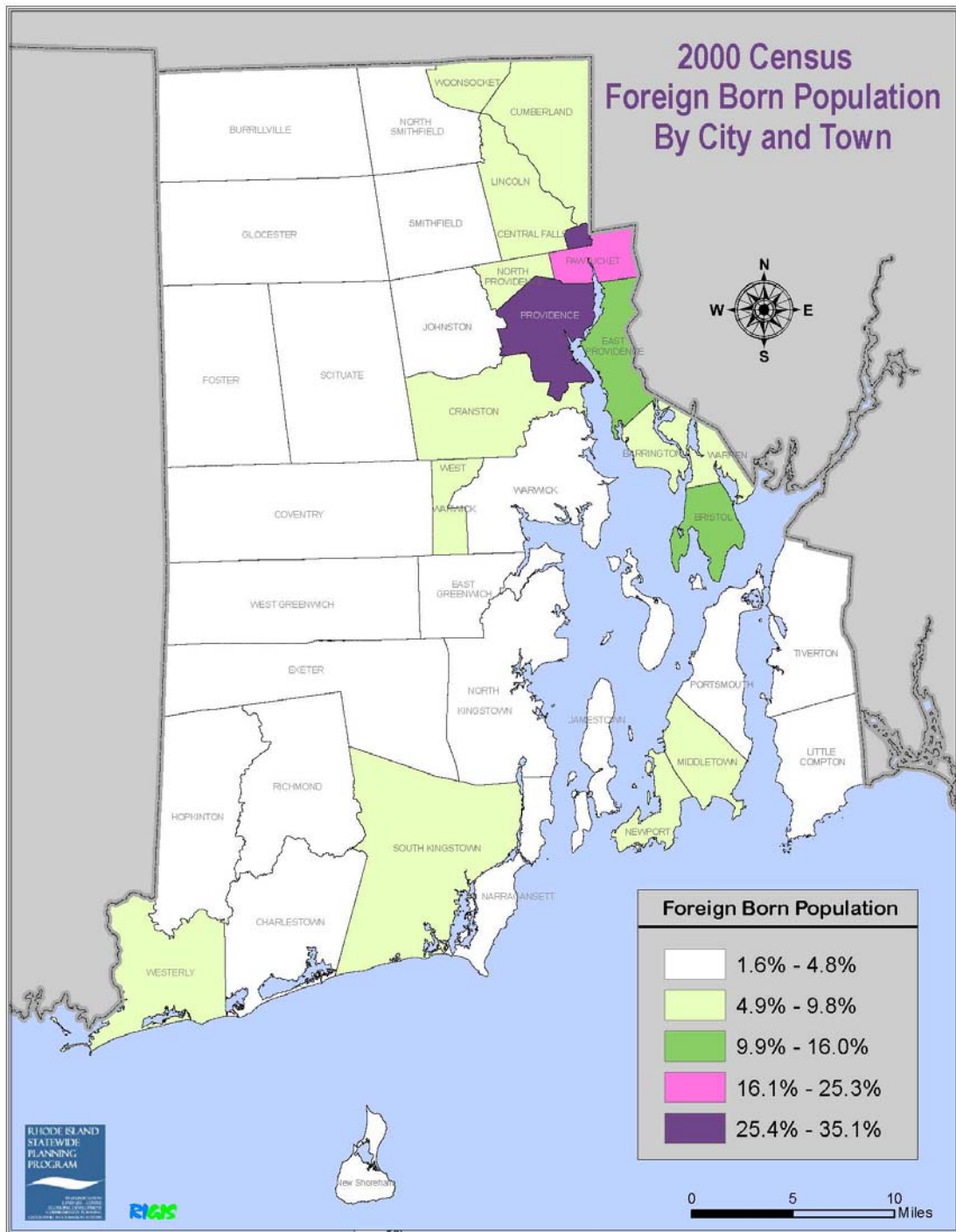


TABLE 7

**FOREIGN BORN POPULATION
BY CITY AND TOWN
RHODE ISLAND 1970 - 2000**

City/town	1970	1980	1990	2000	Percent Change 1970 - 2000
Barrington	811	717	712	945	16.5%
Bristol	3,324	4,222	3,540	3,131	-5.8%
Burrillville	506	429	335	269	-46.8%
Central Falls	2,768	3,987	4,886	6,645	140.1%
Charlestown	150	158	143	173	15.3%
Coventry	997	940	882	1,153	15.6%
Cranston	5,738	5,349	5,586	7,159	24.8%
Cumberland	1,955	2,895	2,467	2,964	51.6%
East Greenwich	298	335	532	619	107.7%
East Providence	5,104	7,507	7,424	7,769	52.2%
Exeter	48	159	139	173	260.4%
Foster	112	86	100	71	-36.6%
Glocester	208	211	192	162	-22.1%
Hopkinton	279	189	160	286	2.5%
Jamestown	128	101	137	236	84.4%
Johnston	1,316	1,368	1,148	1,353	2.8%
Lincoln	1,108	1,111	942	1,569	41.6%
Little Compton	66	60	97	132	100.0%
Middletown	1,094	927	1,003	1,049	-4.1%
Narragansett	275	542	497	402	46.2%
Newport	1,813	1,601	1,473	1,485	-18.1%
New Shoreham	91	25	24	34	-62.6%
North Kingstown	1,136	757	674	891	-21.6%
North Providence	1,843	2,255	2,552	3,171	72.1%
North Smithfield	488	545	450	321	-34.2%
Pawtucket	8,716	11,241	12,868	17,036	95.5%
Portsmouth	475	519	498	683	43.8%
Providence	18,231	21,161	31,532	43,947	141.1%
Richmond	81	95	84	166	104.9%
Scituate	224	231	234	296	32.1%
Smithfield	691	672	678	705	2.0%
South Kingstown	615	827	1,472	1,605	161.0%
Tiverton	818	870	625	631	-22.9%
Warren	848	1,408	1,152	1,014	19.6%
Warwick	3,961	3,758	3,610	4,092	3.3%
Westerly	1,416	1,217	1,183	1,458	3.0%
West Greenwich	44	44	103	131	197.7%
West Warwick	2,271	2,225	1,882	2,112	-7.0%
Woonsocket	4,347	3,257	3,072	3,239	-25.5%
STATE TOTAL	74,394	84,001	95,088	119,277	60.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Migration remains a critical factor in determining population growth and decline of any geographic region. Consequently, new migration patterns may reveal new sources of population ebb and flow.

An analysis of 2000 census data reveals that almost forty percent of Rhode Island residents were born outside the Ocean State: 25 percent (266,000) were born in another state, 1.8 percent (18,986) were born on American territorial lands, and 11.4 percent (119,277) were born in another country – slightly more than one-third (41,478) having entered the U.S. between 1990 and 2000 (see Table 8). For a full listing of nativity and place of birth by city and town, see Appendix 3.

TABLE 8

NATIVITY AND PLACE OF BIRTH			
RHODE ISLAND			
2000			

	Number	Percent of Category	Percent of Total Population
Total Population	1,048,319	100.0 %	100.0%
Native-born	929,042	88.6 %	88.6%
Born in United States	910,056	98.0 %	86.8%
In state of residence	643,912	70.8 %	61.4%
Different state	266,144	29.2 %	25.4%
Born outside the United States	18,986	2.0 %	1.8%
Foreign-born	119,277	11.4 %	11.4%
Naturalized citizen	56,184	47.1 %	5.4%
Not a citizen	63,093	52.9 %	6.0%
Entered U.S. 1990 to March 2000	41,478	34.8 %	4.0%

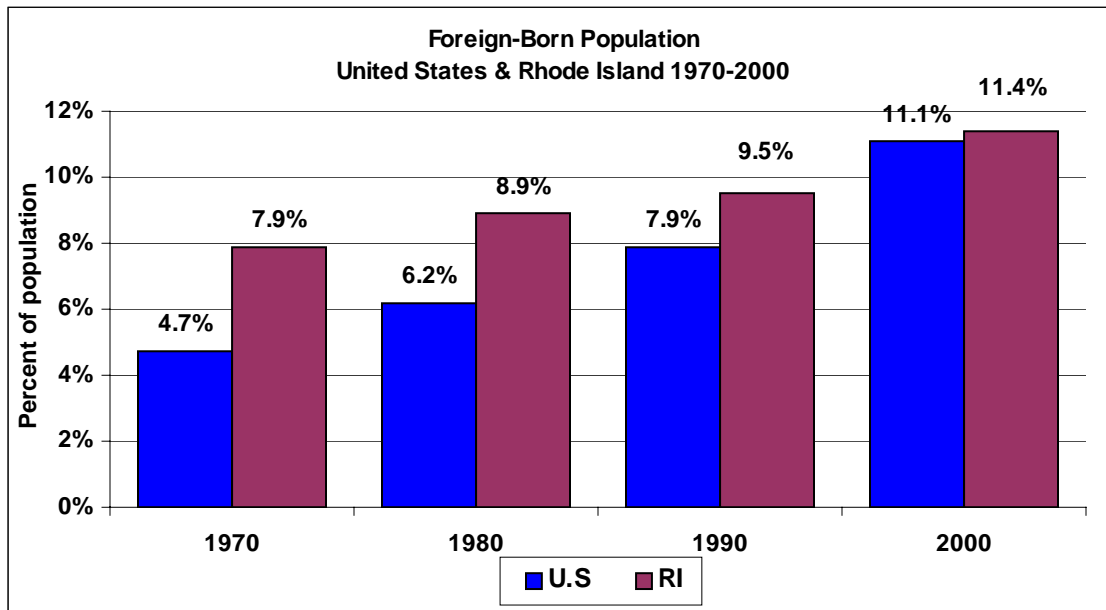
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Three of the major customary entry states for the foreign-born (New York, California and Illinois) experienced considerable out-migration of their foreign-born populations to other states between 1995 and 2000. This secondary migration served to redistribute some of the foreign-born population into nearly all other states.

Although inter-state migration once played a significant role in the expansion of this country, it has been immigration from foreign countries that has been critical to the continued growth of this nation. In fact, almost all Americans today are descendants of immigrants; some having arrived recently and some having arrived decades or centuries earlier.

The 2000 census pegged the foreign-born population residing in the U.S. at 31.1 million, equivalent to 11.1 percent of the nation's total population. This ratio is consistent with the 11.4 percent foreign-born population recorded for Rhode Island (see Figure 19).

FIGURE 19



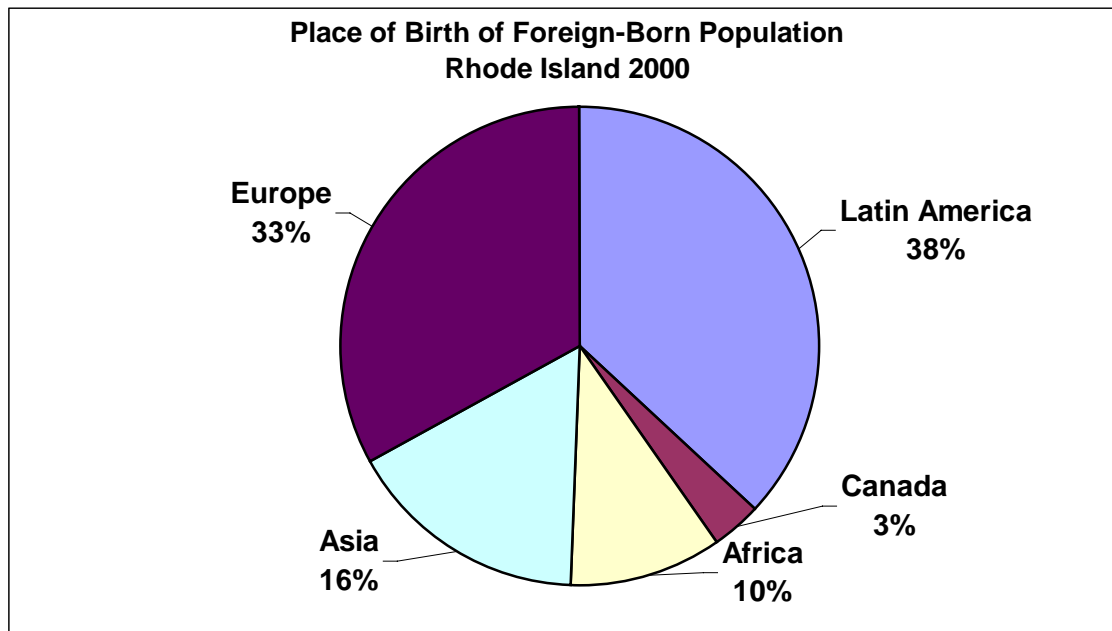
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Graphic: RI Statewide Planning

Where The Foreign-Born Come From

There have always been times throughout our country’s history when large numbers of people from one area of the world have dominated the immigration rolls. According to data extrapolated from the most recent decennial census, the single largest group of foreign-born residents living in Rhode Island emigrated from Latin America (36.8%). The second largest group traveled from Europe (32.9%), the third from Asia (16.4%), the fourth from Africa (10.1%), and the fifth largest group moved south from Canada (3.4%) (see Figure 20). For a detailed listing of country of origin, see Appendix 3.

FIGURE 20



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

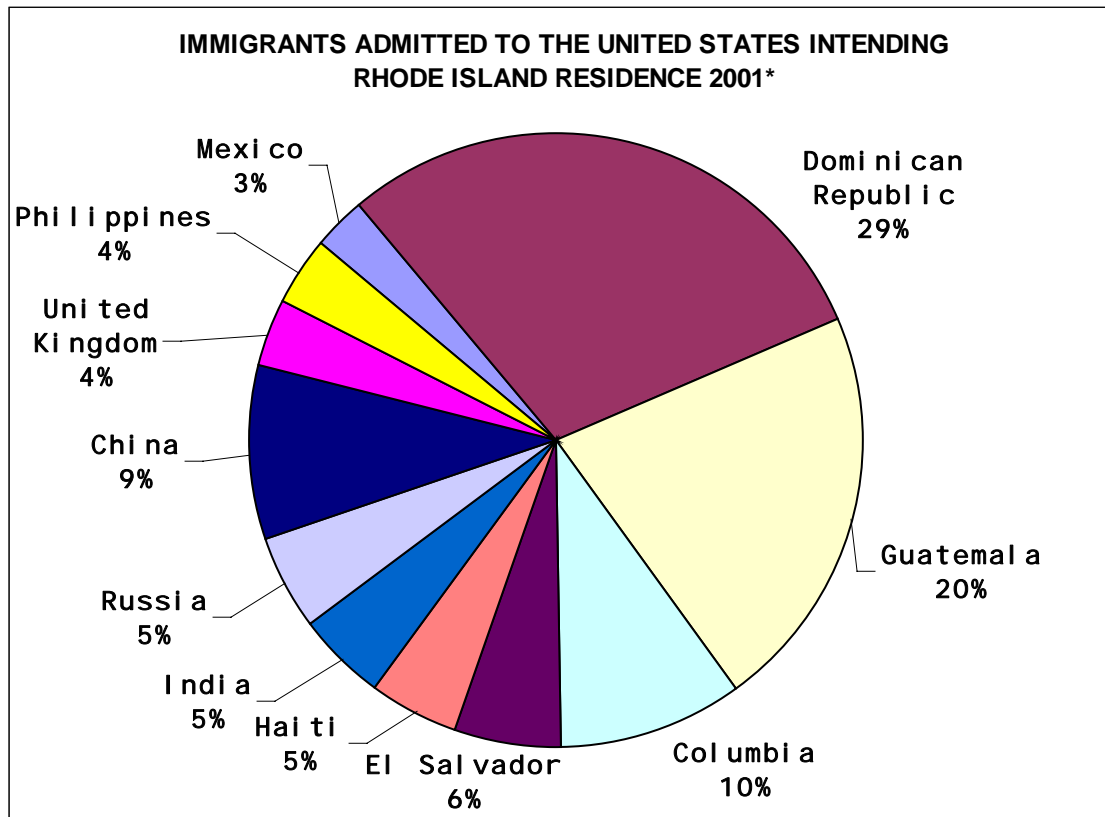
Graphic: RI Statewide Planning

When the final count was tallied for the 2000 Census, many people were surprised to learn that Rhode Island had not lost population – as had earlier been forecast by the Population Estimates Division of the U.S. Census Bureau. Rhode Island had in fact gained population; an increase of more than four percent. Where did this increase come from? Immigration.

The U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service reports that 31,134 immigrants to the United States between 1990 and 2000 said they would be moving to Rhode Island as their state of intended residence. These individuals would therefore be included in the 2000 Census data specifying “Nativity and Place of Birth”. That same data set from the U.S. Census identifies 119,277 Rhode Island residents as foreign-born; 41,478 entering the U.S. between 1990 and 2000. This seemingly conflicting data suggests that migration from one state to another is a significant aspect of post or secondary migration.

The largest single contingent of immigrants to Rhode Island in 2001 (the most recent year for which “intended residence by country or origin” data is available) was from the Dominican Republic. Other significant numbers of immigrants “intending Rhode Island residence” migrated from Spanish speaking countries of Guatemala, Columbia, El Salvador, and Mexico (see Figure 21).

FIGURE 21



Source: U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service

Graphic: RI Statewide Planning

Immigration by Age

Rhode Island's foreign-born population residing here prior to the 2000 census are older than their native counterparts; recording median ages of 41.4 and 37.4 respectively. Conversely, immigrants arriving since 2000 are a much younger group, with a median age of 27.7 years, attributed in large part to the fact that many individuals migrate to the U.S. to find work, and are therefore within the working age category (Table 9).

TABLE 9

Sex and Age	Native Population	Foreign-born Population	Foreign-born: Entered U.S. 2000 or later
Universe: Total Population			
Male	48.2 %	48.3 %	45.8 %
Female	51.8 %	51.7 %	54.2 %
Under 5 years	6.6 %	0.5 %	2.8 %
5 - 17	19.1 %	6.9 %	21.1 %
18 - 24	8.6 %	7.7 %	15 %
25 - 44	27.2 %	42.1 %	44.6 %
45 - 54	14.4 %	20.7 %	9.4 %
55 - 64	10.2 %	11.6 %	4.7 %
65 - 74	6.1 %	6.1 %	2.3 %
75 - 84	5.9 %	3.7 %	0 %
85 +	1.9 %	0.7 %	0 %
Median Age (years)	37.4	41.4	27.7

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

A great deal of attention has been focused recently on increases in enrollment in some area school districts throughout Rhode Island. The capacity of Rhode Island's public school system is limited by infrastructure, personnel, and financial constraints. Between 1990 and 2000, Rhode Island's elementary and secondary public school enrollment increased 18 percent, and many schools have been experiencing population overload, with students packed into structures at levels far above capacity.

While some pundits suggest that these increases are the natural result of children and grandchildren of baby-boomers (the baby-boom echo), official records documenting natural increase suggest otherwise. Information obtained from the Office of Vital Statistics at the Rhode Island Department of Health reveal an almost consistent decrease in the annual number of births occurring in the Ocean State from 1990 to 2000. The first five years of the 1990s decade are the years in which new students entering academia in 2000 would be born. As the number of births during those years decreased from 15,190 to 13,467, it is clear that migration – both foreign and domestic - is the escalating factor.

Immigration by Race and Ethnicity

Any discussion pertaining to *race* and *ethnicity* should be prefaced by definitions of the terminology. The Census Bureau considers race and ethnicity as two separate and distinct concepts. Race reflects self-identification by people according to the socio-political constructs with which they most closely identify. Ethnicity is captured in two classifications: Hispanic and non-Hispanic. People who identify themselves as Hispanic are those who indicate their heritage, nationality group, or lineage of ancestors as Spanish, Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or other related designation.

Blacks and Asians register considerably higher ratios within the foreign-born and new immigrants than corresponding representation within the native population. Blacks comprise 10.8 percent of foreign-born and 10.6 percent of recent immigration, yet represent only 4.8 percent of Rhode Island's native population. Similarly, Asians account for 13.4 percent of foreign-born and 13.3 percent of recent arrivals, yet only 1.2 percent of the State's native population.

Census data reveals that Hispanic immigration is a predominant factor responsible for Rhode Island's recent population growth. Information made available from the Census Bureau's American Community Survey reports that 35.6 percent of Rhode Island's foreign-born population is of Hispanic origin. That ratio increases to 47.3 percent for immigrants arriving since the new millennia.

Meanwhile, recent non-Hispanic White immigration to Rhode Island is on the decline. Representing 39.4 percent of the state's foreign-born population in 2000, the ratio of non-Hispanic Whites entering the U.S. post 2000 drops to 28.2 percent (see Table 10).

TABLE 10

Race and Hispanic Origin	Native Population	Foreign-born Population	Foreign-born: Entered U.S. 2000 or later
Universe: Total Population			
One Race	98.3 %	98.7 %	99.1 %
White	88.2 %	52.5 %	56.9 %
Black or African American	4.8 %	10.8 %	10.6 %
American Indian & Alaska Native	0.4 %	0.8 %	0.0 %
Asian	1.2 %	13.4 %	13.3 %
Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Isl.	0.1 %	3.1 %	0.0 %
Some other race	3.6 %	18.1 %	18.3 %
Two or more races	1.7 %	1.3 %	0.9 %
Hispanic (may be or any race)	7.0 %	35.6 %	47.3 %
White alone, not Hispanic	85.8 %	39.4 %	28.2 %

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Immigration by Marital Status

Recent immigrants are more likely to have never been married than the native population. A solid 47.0 percent of new arrivals (post 2000) have never tied the knot, compared with 31.9 percent of native inhabitants. Conversely, Rhode Island's foreign-born are less apt than their native counterparts to have never married (see Table 11).

TABLE 11

Marital Status	Native Population	Foreign-born Population	Foreign-born: Entered U.S. 2000 or later
Universe: Population 15 years and older			
Never married	31.9 %	25.1 %	47 %
Married, but separated	49.7 %	56 %	49.2 %
Divorced or separated	11.7 %	12.9 %	3.4 %
Widowed	6.7 %	6 %	0.4 %

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

One explanation for the stark dissimilarity is that the median age of newly arrived immigrants is almost ten years younger than the native population, and younger people represent a larger percentage of the newly arrived constituency.

Divorce among immigrants moving to Rhode Island following the decennial census appears to be much more uncommon than among the native population. However, the percentage of divorced individuals among Rhode Island's foreign-born population ranks higher than their native counterparts. Societal and religious norms may have a significant influence on the issue of divorce. Newly found freedoms in America may enable the prospect of divorce among some foreign-born - an operation of law or social structure that may have been maligned in their native countries.

Immigration by Educational Attainment

Higher levels of education are more prevalent among the native population than among the foreign-born. Close to 90 percent of the native population hold high school diplomas, compared to 65 percent of the foreign-born (25 years of age and older) who make Rhode Island their home. Of those graduates, 55 percent of the native population and 40 percent of the foreign-born hold advanced degrees.

Recent immigrants (arriving since 2000) are slightly more likely than foreign-born individuals (residing in state at the time of enumeration of the 2000 census) to have at minimum a high school education. In addition, Census data reveals that 73 percent of new immigrants and 65 percent of foreign-born residents hold at least a high school diploma (see Table 12).

TABLE 12

Educational Attainment	Native Population	Foreign-born Population	Foreign-born: Entered U.S. 2000 or later
Universe: Population 25 years and older			
Less than a high school graduate	14.1 %	34.7 %	27.1 %
High school graduate (or equivalency)	30.4 %	25.8 %	15.9 %
Some college or Associate's Degree	25.8 %	20.4 %	23.3 %
Bachelor's degree	18.1 %	10.2 %	20.2 %
Graduate or Professional degree	11.6 %	8.9 %	13.4 %

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Immigration by Employment

Immigrants currently represent 14.7 percent of Rhode Island’s total workforce, slightly higher than the proportion of foreign-born to the total population (12.3%). This is most likely because - in comparison to the native population - a higher percentage of immigrants are of working age.

A smaller percentage of Rhode Island’s foreign-born are employed in management and professional occupations than native-born residents. This same proportional disparity applies in the sales and office occupations. However, a higher ratio of foreign-born residents of the Ocean State are employed in construction and maintenance jobs, as well as production, transportation and material handling occupations (see Table 13).

TABLE 13

Employment	Native Population	Foreign-born Population	Foreign-born: Entered U.S. 2000 or later
Universe: Population 16 years and older			
Management, professional and related occupations	37.1 %	22.4 %	17.6 %
Service occupations	16.7 %	23.1 %	20.3 %
Sales and Office occupations	27.2 %	16.7 %	19.2 %
Farming, fishing and forestry	0.3 %	0.1 %	0 %
Construction and Maintenance	8.7 %	10.1 %	13.3 %
Production, transportation, and material handling occupations	9.9 %	27.6 %	29.5 %

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Immigration by Income

According to data collected in the American Community Survey, foreign-born workers earn one-fourth less than their native counterparts, and immigrant males arriving since 2000 earn 30 percent less wages than the state’s foreign-born male workers. However, immigrant female workers arriving since 2000 earn on average the same as foreign-born females.

An interesting phenomenon occurs among immigrant workers who have arrived since 2000: while the income disparity between males and females continues into the twenty-first century (among the native-born, males earn 22.3% higher wages than females; among foreign-born, males earn 17.9% higher wages than females), recently arrived immigrant males earn 16.7 percent less than recently arrived immigrant female workers (see Table 14).

TABLE 14

Earnings	Native Population	Foreign-born Population	Foreign-born: Entered U.S. 2000 or later
Universe: Population 16 and older w/earnings			
Median earnings (dollars) for full-time, year-round workers			
Male	\$45,048	\$32,162	\$22,304
Female	\$34,995	\$26,408	\$26,032

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Many newly arrived immigrants, especially those from Central and South American countries, likely have limited education and English language skills. Immigrant male workers may only be able to secure employment in what are customarily considered lower pay-scale jobs such as lawn maintenance and house painting, which customarily provide only seasonal employment. Many immigrant female workers on the other hand, are more apt to secure employment in the restaurant and hotel arena, where employment is year-round and extra earnings from tips or gratuities are customary.

Immigration by Poverty

The foreign-born population in Rhode Island registers a slightly higher percentage (15.7%) within poverty than the native population (12.4%), and the percentage of immigrants arriving after enumeration of the 2000 census who fall within the poverty guidelines (24.3%) is almost twice that of the state’s native population (see Table 15).

TABLE 15

Poverty Status (in past 12 months)	Native Population	Foreign-born Population	Foreign-born: Entered U.S. 2000 or later
Universe: Population for whom poverty is determined			
Below poverty level	12.4 %	15.7 %	24.3 %
100 to 149 percent of poverty level	6.5 %	9 %	13.7 %
At or above 150 percent of poverty level	81.1 %	75.3 %	62 %

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

The large proportion of new arrivals living in poverty is not surprising. Throughout our nation’s history, new immigrants have generally started their new lives in America living in some degree of economic distress. Educational limitations and language barriers are often key factors preventing new arrivals from obtaining anything beyond sustainable employment.

Those barriers will likely prevent many new arrivals from ever “succeeding” to the American dream. Or perhaps just being in the “Land of the Free” *is* their definition of the American dream. For many, their dreams may well extend beyond their own lives . . . to the future of their children. It is the children of immigrants who have the greatest opportunities for succeeding to educational achievement and economic prosperity.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

Whenever the subject of immigration is discussed, the conversation invariably turns to the issue of illegal immigration. Although definitive data on illegal immigration is not available, the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) publishes estimates of foreign individuals who either overstay visas or enter the U.S. illegally. In a recently published document, the INS estimated the number of illegal immigrants residing in Rhode Island at the beginning of the twenty-first century at 16,000; double the estimate computed just a decade earlier.

The low-end estimate of seven million illegal immigrants living in the U.S. in 2000 represents 2.5 percent of the nation's total population, with significantly large concentrations residing in California (6.5%), Arizona (5.5%), and Texas (5.0%). The INS estimate of the number of illegal immigrants in Rhode Island represents 1.5 percent of the Ocean State's population; a larger percentage than in all other New England states, although fewer in number than in Connecticut and Massachusetts.

In a report published by the GAO in 2004 examining costs associated with illegal immigrants, a central observation was expressed: "Considering our findings, we believe that the government information that is available [on illegal immigration] is not sufficient to reliably quantify the costs . . ." and "although DHS estimates the resident illegal immigrant population, its estimates are subject to unspecified levels of uncertainty . . ." and "the Census Bureau plans to develop age-group estimates [of illegal immigrants], but it is too early to evaluate its plans".

The U.S. Census Bureau does not ask the legal status of individuals responding to the decennial census questionnaire. In fact, the Census Bureau goes to considerable expense to assuage the public that no individual census records will be turned over to the INS or other government agency, and that it is imperative for *all* persons to respond to the census, regardless of their legal status. Accordingly, all data products derived from the 2000 Census are issued with the conviction of defining the entire population, including illegal immigrants.

That being said however, it would be naïve to assume that all illegal immigrants residing in the U.S. are represented in data collected from census questionnaires. There are simply far too many reasons why people who are here illegally would not want to be counted . . . but would instead prefer to remain "hidden" from federal authorities.

Whatever the actual count of illegal immigrants in the Ocean State may be, concerns about their impact on social and economic fronts have manifested in every community. What was once considered a uniquely urban issue has in recent years become a growing concern in outlying suburban and rural areas. Much of the public discourse stems from the use of scarce taxpayer dollars providing welfare, medical, and education benefits to illegal immigrants and the children of illegal immigrants.

TABLE 16

Percentage of Estimated Illegal Immigrant Population By State of Residence - 2000
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Ranked by Percentage of Population

State	Percent of Population
California	6.5%
Arizona	5.5%
Nevada	5.1%
Texas	5.0%
Illinois	3.5%
Colorado	3.3%
Utah	2.9%
Georgia	2.8%
Oregon	2.6%
New Jersey	2.6%
New York	2.6%
North Carolina	2.6%
Washington	2.3%
New Mexico	2.1%
Florida	2.1%
Kansas	1.7%
Rhode Island	1.5%
Idaho	1.5%
Virginia	1.5%
Nebraska	1.4%
Massachusetts	1.4%
Oklahoma	1.3%
Delaware	1.3%
District of Columbia	1.2%
Minnesota	1.2%
Connecticut	1.1%
Maryland	1.1%
Arkansas	1.0%
South Carolina	0.9%
Iowa	0.8%
Tennessee	0.8%
Alaska	0.8%
Wisconsin	0.8%
Indiana	0.7%
Michigan	0.7%
Alabama	0.5%
Pennsylvania	0.4%
Missouri	0.4%
Kentucky	0.4%
Ohio	0.4%
Mississippi	0.3%
Hawaii	0.2%
Louisiana	0.1%
Maine	*
Montana	*
New Hampshire	*
North Dakota	*
South Dakota	*
Vermont	*
West Virginia	*
Wyoming	*

* Fewer than 2,500 individuals, less than .1%.

Source: U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service

Source: U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service

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Appendix 1

Domestic In-Migration
State of Residence in 1995
By State of Residence in 2000: Rhode Island.
Ranked

Population 5 years and older

Moved From:	Moved to RI	Percent of Total
Massachusetts	27,015	27.9 %
New York	13,771	14.2
Connecticut	9,708	10.0
California	5,669	5.8
Florida	5,539	5.7
New Jersey	4,232	4.4
Pennsylvania	4,001	4.1
Virginia	3,190	3.3
New Hampshire	2,115	2.2
Maryland	1,818	1.9
Maine	1,767	1.8
Texas	1,732	1.8
Ohio	1,335	1.4
Illinois	1,265	1.3
Georgia	1,108	1.1
North Carolina	1,097	1.1
Washington	943	1.0
Colorado	927	1.0
Arizona	750	0.8
Michigan	714	0.7
Vermont	620	0.6
Missouri	575	0.6
South Carolina	514	0.5
Hawaii	508	0.5
Indiana	479	0.5
Wisconsin	467	0.5
Oregon	453	0.5
Tennessee	398	0.4
District of Columbia	394	0.4
Nevada	387	0.4
Louisiana	355	0.4
Minnesota	352	0.4
Iowa	291	0.3
Alabama	258	0.3
Utah	250	0.3
Kentucky	236	0.2
Kansas	231	0.2
Alaska	225	0.2
New Mexico	191	0.2
Delaware	171	0.2
Oklahoma	167	0.2
Nebraska	164	0.2
Mississippi	136	0.1
Montana	113	0.1
West Virginia	106	0.1
Idaho	86	0.1
Arkansas	74	0.1
South Dakota	50	0.1
Wyoming	20	0.0
North Dakota	13	0.0
Total	96,980	100.0 %

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Appendix 2

Domestic Out-Migration State of Residence in 2000 By State of Residence in 1995: Rhode Island Ranked

Population 5 years and older

Moved to:	Moved from RI	Percent of Total
Massachusetts	24,190	25.8 %
Florida	12,871	13.7
Connecticut	6,734	7.2
New York	6,669	7.1
California	5,005	5.3
Virginia	3,588	3.8
North Carolina	2,682	2.9
New Hampshire	2,577	2.7
Pennsylvania	2,504	2.7
Texas	2,246	2.4
New Jersey	2,023	2.2
Maryland	1,977	2.1
Maine	1,858	2.0
Georgia	1,762	1.9
South Carolina	1,276	1.4
Ohio	1,260	1.3
Illinois	1,257	1.3
Arizona	1,178	1.3
Washington	1,113	1.2
Vermont	1,084	1.2
Colorado	1,053	1.1
Michigan	852	0.9
Indiana	678	0.7
Tennessee	675	0.7
Nevada	618	0.7
Missouri	507	0.5
District of Columbia	492	0.5
Minnesota	459	0.5
Oregon	425	0.5
Hawaii	414	0.4
Louisiana	383	0.4
Wisconsin	350	0.4
Alabama	309	0.3
Utah	298	0.3
New Mexico	294	0.3
Mississippi	278	0.3
West Virginia	264	0.3
Kentucky	251	0.3
Kansas	204	0.2
Delaware	189	0.2
Arkansas	177	0.2
Oklahoma	171	0.2
Iowa	132	0.1
Nebraska	116	0.1
Idaho	92	0.1
Alaska	84	0.1
Montana	57	0.1
Wyoming	47	0.1
South Dakota	21	0.0
North Dakota	0	0.0
Total	93,744	100.0 %

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Appendix 3

**Place of Birth of the Foreign-Born Population
Rhode Island 2000**

Total Foreign-born	119,277	Africa:	12,066
Europe:	39,221	Eastern Africa:	331
Northern Europe:	4,612	Ethiopia	22
United Kingdom	3,120	Other Eastern Africa	309
Ireland	911	Middle Africa:	282
Sweden	371	Northern Africa:	478
Other Northern Europe	210	Egypt	383
Western Europe:	3,357	Other Northern Africa	95
Austria	132	Southern Africa:	217
France	730	South Africa	137
Germany	1,982	Other Southern Africa	80
Netherlands	274	Western Africa:	10,288
Other Western Europe	239	Ghana	541
Southern Europe:	26,759	Nigeria	1,344
Greece	1,014	Sierra Leone	14
Italy	4,502	Other Western Africa	8,389
Portugal	21,016	Africa, n.e.c.	470
Spain	212	Oceania:	397
Other Southern Europe	15	Australia and New Zealand Subregion:	233
Eastern Europe:	4,480	Australia	174
Czechoslovakia*A49	116	Other Australian and New Zealand Subregion	59
Hungary	154	Melanesia	40
Poland	1,473	Micronesia	0
Romania	194	Polynesia	124
Belarus	160	Oceania, n.e.c.	0
Russia	900	Americas:	48,015
Ukraine	607	Latin America:	43,892
Bosnia and Herzegovina	5	Caribbean:	19,678
Yugoslavia	82	Barbados	82
Other Eastern Europe	789	Cuba	422
Europe, n.e.c.	13	Dominican Republic	16,382
Asia:	19,578	Haiti	1,557
Eastern Asia:	4,998	Jamaica	555
China:	2,954	Trinidad and Tobago	295
China, excluding Hong Kong and Taiwan	1,954	Other Caribbean	385
Hong Kong	475	Central America:	13,752
Taiwan	525	Mexico	2,510
Japan	640	Other Central America:	11,242
Korea	1,404	Costa Rica	71
Other Eastern Asia	0	El Salvador	1,194
South Central Asia:	2,164	Guatemala	9,049
Afghanistan	41	Honduras	619
Bangladesh	92	Nicaragua	81
India	1,423	Panama	157
Iran	235	Other Central America	71
Pakistan	256	South America:	10,462
Other South Central Asia	117	Argentina	341
South Eastern Asia:	9,900	Bolivia	951
Cambodia	3,335	Brazil	779
Indonesia	169	Chile	104
Laos	2,602	Colombia	6,496
Malaysia	137	Ecuador	474
Philippines	1,936	Guyana	18
Thailand	857	Peru	606
Vietnam	792	Venezuela	606
Other South Eastern Asia	72	Other South America	87
Western Asia:	2,474	Northern America:	4,123
Iraq	131	Canada	4,015
Israel	87	Other Northern America	108
Jordan	29	Born at sea	0
Lebanon	659		
Syria	510		
Turkey	509		
Armenia	204		
Other Western Asia	345		
Asia, n.e.c.	42		

* Includes Czech Republic and Slovakia)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

