

# Rhode Island Demographics

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# Rhode Island (2021)\*

- ❖ Total foreign-born population – 159,304
- ❖ 14.5% of the state's ~ 1.1 million people are foreign born
  - 57.4% naturalized citizens
  - 26% legal permanent residents (as of 2019)
  - 16.6% temporary visa holders or undocumented immigrants
- 44.6% rise in immigrant population from 2000 to 2021
- ❖ Length of time immigrants have lived in the U.S.
  - 52.4% entered before 1999
  - 18.9% entered 2000 - 2009
  - 28.7% since 2010
- ❖ 28.8% of children under age 18 have one or more immigrant parents
  - 86.5% of these children are native-born U.S. citizens

*\*Source: Migration Policy Institute Data Hub (November, 2023) and Lawful Permanent Resident estimates MPI and DHS (2022)*

# Rhode Island – Countries/Regions of Origin & Limited English Proficiency (LEP)(2021)\*

- ❖ Latin America – 50.8%
  - ❖ Caribbean (26%)
  - ❖ Central America (15.9%)
  - ❖ Colombia (5.2%)
- ❖ Europe – 20.3%
  - ❖ Portugal (10.3%)
- ❖ Asia – 13.5%
  - ❖ Southeastern Asia (5.7%)
- ❖ Africa – 11.9%
  - ❖ Western Africa (10.3%)
- ❖ Middle East – 2%
- ❖ Canada – 1.1%
- ❖ Oceania – 0.4%
- ❖ Language spoken
  - ❖ 21.9% of people in the state who speak a language other than English at home
  - ❖ 46.6% of foreign-born persons are LEP - speak English less than “very well”

*\*Source: [Migration Policy Institute Data Hub](#) (November, 2023)*

# Rhode Island - Languages Spoken at Home (2021)\*

- ❖ Spanish (132,551)
- ❖ Portuguese (27,058)
- ❖ Haitian (11,835)
- ❖ French (including Cajun) (7,244)
- ❖ Chinese (including Mandarin, Cantonese) (6,215)
- ❖ Italian (5,034)
- ❖ Khmer (4,630)
- ❖ Thai, Lao, or Other Tai-Kadai Languages (3,553)
- ❖ Russian (2,261)
- ❖ Hindi (2,201)
- ❖ Yoruba, Twi, Igbo, or Other Languages of Western Africa (2,106)
- ❖ Polish (1,790)
- ❖ Tagalog (including Filipino) (1,674)
- ❖ Arabic (1,671)
- ❖ Telugu (1,353)
- ❖ Armenian (1,250)
- ❖ German (1,206)

\* Source: <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/state-profiles/state/language/RI> (November, 2023)

# Rhode Island - LEP (2021)\*

- ❖ Limited English Proficiency (Speak English less than very well)
  - ❖ Naturalized citizens – 42.1%
  - ❖ Noncitizens – 52.7%
- ❖ Limited English Proficiency by language spoken at home
  - ❖ Yoruba, Twi, Igbo, or Other Languages of Western Africa (72.6%)
  - ❖ Polish (53.4%)
  - ❖ Russian (43.7%)
  - ❖ Chinese (including Mandarin, Cantonese) (42.8%)
  - ❖ Khmer (42.4%)
  - ❖ Spanish (42.3%)
  - ❖ Portuguese (38.2%)
  - ❖ Haitian (38%)
  - ❖ Thai, Lao, or Other Tai-Kadai Languages (36%)
  - ❖ French (including Cajun) (25.8%)
  - ❖ Italian (24.6%)

\* Source: <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/state-profiles/state/language/RI> (November, 2023)