

Rhode Island Demographics

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Rhode Island (2019)*

- ❖ Total foreign born population – 145,074
- ❖ 13.7% of the country's ~ 1.1 million people are foreign born
 - 53% naturalized citizens
 - 26% legal permanent residents
 - 21% temporary visa holders or undocumented immigrants
- 21.6% rise in immigrant population from 2000 to 2019
- ❖ Length of time immigrants have lived in the U.S.
 - 55.4% entered before 1999
 - 19.9% entered 2000 - 2009
 - 24.8% since 2010
- ❖ 27.8% of children under age 18 have one or more immigrant parents
 - 82.4% of these children are native-born U.S. citizens

**Source: Migration Policy Institute Data Hub (August 2021) and Lawful Permanent Resident estimates MPI and DHS (2022)*

Rhode Island – Countries/Regions of Origin & Limited English Proficiency (LEP)(2019)*

- ❖ Latin America – 46.7%
 - ❖ Caribbean (27.4%)
 - ❖ Central America (13.3%)
 - ❖ South America (6%)
- ❖ Europe – 20.2%
 - ❖ Portugal (10.4%)
- ❖ Asia – 16.7%
 - ❖ Southeastern Asia (7%)
 - ❖ Eastern Asia (5.7%)
- ❖ Africa – 12.1%
 - ❖ Western Africa (9.7%)
- ❖ Middle East – 2.6%
- ❖ Canada – 1.5%
- ❖ Oceania – 0.2%
- ❖ Language spoken
 - ❖ 22.4% of people in the state who speak a language other than English at home
 - ❖ 47.7% of foreign born persons are LEP - speak English less than “very well”

**Source: [Migration Policy Institute Data Hub](#) (August 2021)*

Rhode Island - Languages Spoken at Home (2019)*

- ❖ Spanish (123,414)
- ❖ Portuguese (29,268)
- ❖ French (including Cajun) (9,406)
- ❖ Haitian (8,894)
- ❖ Chinese (including Mandarin, Cantonese) (7,014)
- ❖ Italian (5,879)
- ❖ Khmer (4,795)
- ❖ Yoruba, Twi, Igbo, or Other Languages of Western Africa (3,401)
- ❖ Arabic (3,381)
- ❖ Thai, Lao, or Other Tai-Kadai Languages (2,696)
- ❖ Hindi (2,241)
- ❖ German (1,995)
- ❖ Russian (1,744)
- ❖ Vietnamese (1,612)
- ❖ Polish (1,487)
- ❖ Tagalog (including Filipino) (1,439)
- ❖ Korean (1,184)

* Source: <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/state-profiles/state/language/RI> (August 2021)

Rhode Island - LEP (2019)*

- ❖ Limited English Proficiency (Speak English less than very well)
 - ❖ Naturalized citizens – 37.6%
 - ❖ Noncitizens – 47.7%
- ❖ Limited English Proficiency by language spoken at home
 - ❖ Vietnamese (53.0%)
 - ❖ Chinese (including Mandarin, Cantonese) (52.2%)
 - ❖ Khmer (47.8%)
 - ❖ Korean (44.7%)
 - ❖ Thai, Lao, or Other Tai-Kadai Languages (45.5%)
 - ❖ Spanish (42.2%)
 - ❖ Arabic (36.8%)
 - ❖ Portuguese (36.8%)
 - ❖ Haitian (35.1%)
 - ❖ Russian (31.5%)
 - ❖ Polish (28.3%)

* Source: <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/state-profiles/state/language/RI> (August 2021)