

Child Population and Racial Composition

DEFINITION

This indicator reports the number of children in the population under 18 years old and their racial composition. Child population estimates for each county are five-year averages for years 2005 to 2009.

The U.S. Census classifies the entire population by race using the following seven categories: white alone, black or African American alone, American Indian and Alaskan Native alone, Asian alone, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, some other race alone, or two or more races together. It does not define Hispanic or Latino as a race, but rather as an ethnic description that may apply to people of any race (U.S. Census 2010d).

CONTEXT

In 2009, children under age 18 made up about one quarter of the U.S. population. Nationally, the percentage of children has steadily declined since the end of the baby boom in the 1950s. Analysts predict that the current rate will remain stable for the next 40 years or so (Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics 2010).

Census estimates put the population of children under 19 in New Hampshire households at 292,196 for 2008 (Census 2010b). Children accounted for a smaller share of the state population in 2008 than in 2000. The biggest decrease occurred in 5 to 14 year olds as a share of the total population (NHES & NHELMIB). The number of teenagers ages 13 to 17 decreased between 2005 and 2008. Researchers attribute the decrease to declining birthrates beginning in the late 1980s through the early 1990s (Wauchope 2010).

By 2023, children born to minority parents are expected to outnumber children born to non-Hispanic white parents in the United States, fully 19 years before adult minorities are expected to outnumber adult non-Hispanic whites. The numbers of children of immigrant families in the United States (children who are foreign born or children with a foreign-born parent) are growing at a faster pace than any other child population group. In 2007, New Hampshire had 26,000 children living in immigrant families, 9 percent of the state's total child population, compared to 22 percent for the United States (Mather 2010).

Although minorities make up a tiny share of the total state population, growth among minority populations was almost nine times the growth rate of New

Child Population by Race By County, 2005-2009, five-year average

	Total Population Under Age 18	White Alone	Black or African American Alone	American Indian and Alaska Native Alone	Asian Alone	Native Hawaiian & Other Pacific Islander Alone	Some other Race Alone	Two or More Races
STATE TOTAL	298,180	273,961 (91.9%)	4,123 (1.6%)	663 (0.2%)	6,809 (2.3%)	18 (0%)	3,522 (1.2%)	8,471 (2.8%)
Belknap County	12,952	12,345 (95.3%)	106 (0.8%)	107 (0.8%)	142 (1.1%)	18 (0.1%)	19 (0.1%)	215 (1.7%)
Carroll County	9,316	8,956 (96.1%)	88 (0.9%)	47 (0.5%)	97 (1.0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	128 (1.4%)
Cheshire County	15,837	14,925 (94.2%)	106 (0.7%)	41 (0.3%)	160 (1.0%)	0 (0%)	176 (1.1%)	429 (2.7%)
Coos County	6,454	6,163 (95.5%)	9 (0.1%)	0 (0%)	74 (1.1%)	0 (0%)	74 (1.1%)	134 (2.1%)
Grafton County	16,386	15,176 (92.6%)	198 (1.2%)	15 (0.1%)	483 (2.9%)	0 (0%)	82 (0.5%)	432 (2.6%)
Hillsborough County	97,991	85,843 (87.6%)	2,891 (3.0%)	210 (0.2%)	3,196 (3.3%)	0 (0%)	2,425 (2.5%)	3,426 (3.5%)
Merrimack County	33,201	31,303 (94.3%)	388 (1.2%)	133 (0.4%)	476 (1.4%)	0 (0%)	65 (0.2%)	836 (2.5%)
Rockingham County	70,902	66,555 (93.9%)	572 (0.8%)	42 (0.1%)	1,441 (2.0%)	0 (0%)	426 (0.6%)	1,866 (2.6%)
Strafford County	25,922	23,833 (91.9%)	315 (1.2%)	26 (0.1%)	691 (2.7%)	0 (0%)	211 (0.8%)	846 (3.3%)
Sullivan County	9,219	8,862 (96.1%)	63 (0.7%)	42 (0.5%)	49 (0.5%)	0 (0%)	44 (0.5%)	159 (1.7%)



Hampshire's white population between 2000 and 2006. The minority growth rate accounted for over 30 percent of the total population growth over the six-year period at the start of the century. In New Hampshire most of the population growth between 1990 and 2000 occurred in families with children who were concentrated in the state's metropolitan areas including Hillsborough, Rockingham and Strafford Counties (Johnson 2007).

NEW HAMPSHIRE FINDINGS

New Hampshire's child population which accounts for 22.5 percent of total state population is predominantly white and is concentrated in the southern part of the state. More than half (56 percent) of the state's 298,180 children live in Hillsborough and Merrimack counties. Coos County has the smallest child population estimated at 6,454, or 2.2 percent of New Hampshire children (U.S. Census 2010b and 2010c).

Hispanic and non-Hispanic white children make up 91.9 percent of the state's child population. Asian children make up 2.3 percent of the population and black or African American children comprise 1.4 percent of the population. American Indian and Alaska Native children and Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander children together reflect less than 0.25 percent of the state's child population. The remaining children are labeled as either another race (1.2 percent) or reflect two or more races (2.8 percent). An estimated 12,334 or 4.1 percent of New Hampshire children of all races were Hispanic. Hillsborough County had the largest proportion of Hispanic children (7.58 percent) — more than double the percentage of any other county — and Belknap County had the lowest percentage (1.2 percent). (see table on previous page)

New Hampshire's most populous county is also its most diverse county. Nearly 17 percent of children in Hillsborough County are Hispanic and/or non-white compared to 11 percent statewide. In all other counties, Hispanic and non-white children make up less than 10 percent of the total child population (Census 2010a). Hillsborough County has the highest percentage of children of every non-white race except Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander. Child populations are least diverse in Carroll and Sullivan counties where less than 5 percent of children are a non-white race and less than 5.5 percent of children are non-white and non-Hispanic.

SOURCE OF DATA FOR ILLUSTRATION/METHODOLOGY

U.S. Census. 2010a. American Community Survey, Table B01001 5-year average 2005-2009. www.factfinder.census.gov

The American Community Survey does not report single-year population estimates for geographies with populations under 65,000. In New Hampshire this includes Belknap, Carroll, Coos and Sullivan counties. Because the American Community Survey estimates of racial diversity in New Hampshire counties are sometimes based on very small samples these estimates are subject to error.

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