

NCLR
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LA RAZA

Kids Count
Data Book

2004
PUERTO RICO



National Council of La Raza

The National Council of La Raza (NCLR) is a private, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization established in 1968 to reduce poverty and discrimination and improve life opportunities for Hispanic Americans. NCLR serves as an advocate for Latinos and as a national umbrella organization for more than 300 formal community-based affiliate organizations, who together serve 41 states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia – and a broader network of more than 35,000 groups and individuals nationwide – reaching more than four million Hispanics annually. After 36 years of existence, NCLR continues to identify the following four major functions as essential to addressing its mission:

- Capacity-building assistance to support and strengthen Hispanic community-based organizations to help them meet the needs of their communities.
- Applied research, policy analysis, and advocacy on behalf of Hispanic Americans.
- Public information efforts that provide accurate information and positive images in the Hispanic and mainstream media.
- Special projects that use the NCLR structure and credibility to create other entities.

NCLR is headquartered in Washington, DC and has regional offices in Atlanta, Chicago, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Antonio, Phoenix, and San Juan, Puerto Rico.

NCLR-Puerto Rico Regional Office

NCLR's office in Puerto Rico serves as a liaison between Washington, DC programs and Puerto Rico community-based organizations on the Island, and helps to address the challenges that these organizations face. In addition, NCLR conducts research on the socioeconomic status of families and children in Puerto Rico and uses this information to provide a Puerto Rico-focused voice on important federal public policy debates that affect the Island. Through its activities, NCLR seeks to strengthen the community-based/nonprofit sector; achieve positive outcomes for children and families; and promote public policy that assists low-income families to increase their economic mobility.

KIDS COUNT

KIDS COUNT, a project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF), is a national and state-by-state effort to track the status of children in the United States. By providing policy-makers and citizens with benchmarks of child well-being, KIDS COUNT seeks to enrich local, state, and national discussions concerning ways to secure better futures for all children. At the national level, the principal activity of the initiative is the publication of the annual *KIDS COUNT Data Book*, which uses the best available data to measure the educational, social, economic, and physical well-being of children. AECF also funds a nationwide network of state-level KIDS COUNT projects that provide a more detailed community-by-community picture of the condition of children.

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2004 KIDS COUNT – Puerto Rico Data Book

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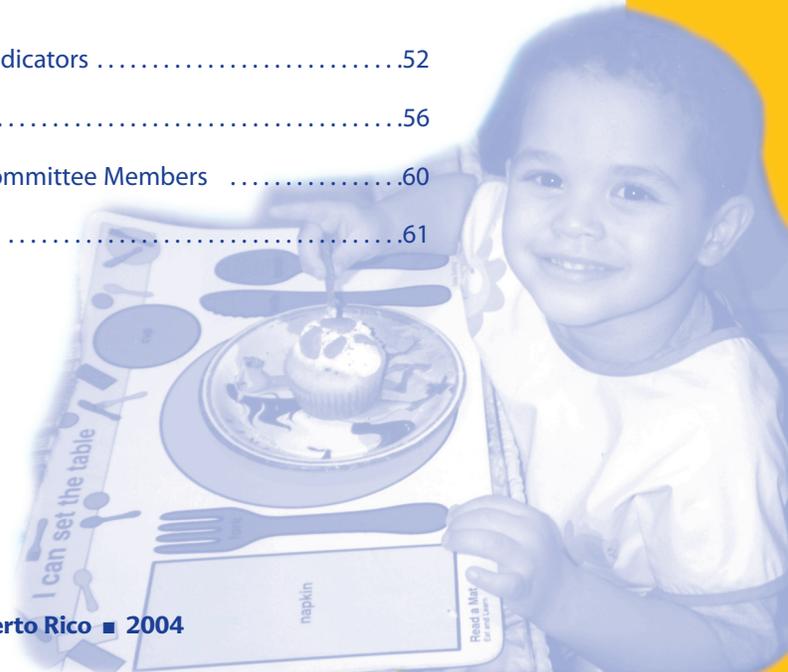
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Acknowledgments

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 - Department of Health
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Foreword

This is the first statistical report on the children of Puerto Rico, and it is important and timely for several reasons.

First, it helps to build the foundation for understanding an important – and all too often disadvantaged – segment of Puerto Rico’s population. While most would agree that children’s lives in Puerto Rico are continuing to improve, we also know that there are still some very pressing challenges that need our attention, such as teenage pregnancy and adolescent homicide. In that sense, this data book contributes new knowledge and lays the groundwork for additional research and more in-depth studies.

Second, children don’t always get the attention they deserve from research or public policy. My hope is that this data book stimulates discussion, promotes exchanges, and influences decision-making in ways that help to ensure a bright future for the 1.1 million children in Puerto Rico.

Third, I believe that the book challenges all of us – policy-makers, foundations, nonprofits, community groups, and the private sector – to take a fact-based look at children in Puerto Rico and to ask: What can we do to improve the future? What more do we need? What can be done differently? How do we pool our talents, resources, and expertise to reduce poverty, expand opportunity, or increase safety for teenagers in ways that we can measure?

The issues outlined in the data book parallel those of the Puerto Rican and other Latino child populations in the 50 states – which is especially meaningful to me. The concerns of the most vulnerable have always been central to the work of the National Council of La Raza (NCLR). Indeed, our focus on poverty reduction has had at its core the need to ensure that all children have the familial, social, educational, and economic supports and resources they need to access health care and nutrition services, obtain a quality education, and grow up to fulfill their dreams and become productive members of society.

I am pleased that the Annie E. Casey Foundation recognized the importance of including Puerto Rico in its KIDS COUNT network and am proud that NCLR was selected to undertake this effort. While this book may seem like a list of tables and statistics, we must understand that these figures represent individual children’s lives – from Baranquitas, Loiza, Morovis, and Peñuelas, with the largest proportion of children, to Hormigueros, and Mayagüez with the smallest. These data offer a tool for program development and planning, as well as for advocacy. And for those who shape policy and make decisions about children’s lives, this report underscores the serious work that needs to be done on a number of issues, as well as the continued need for high-quality, accurate data-gathering and analysis.



I am hopeful that this data book, coupled with the efforts of different sectors in Puerto Rico, will bring us together to shape

a common vision for our children, and to develop strategies and solutions that will improve their lives.

Raul Yzaguirre
President & CEO, NCLR
July 2004

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Introduction

Three in ten Puerto Ricans are less than 18 years old and, within the next decade, these children will represent the Island's students, workers, taxpayers, and future leaders. In this context, information on how our children are faring in specific areas and a better understanding of trends on a range of issues affecting children warrant attention. Specifically, there is a need to develop a common set of measurable and integrated facts and figures about the current status of Puerto Rico's children to help policy-makers, public officials, nonprofits, community-based organizations, the media, and the private sector ensure bright futures for our children.

Recent data and headlines paint a troubling portrait of children in Puerto Rico. According to Census 2000, 58% of children under 18 years old are poor. Moreover, a recent analysis showed that 59,000 children between the ages of four and 17 suffer from some type of mental health condition.¹ Depending on the source and definition, drop out rates range from 14% to 51%.² In addition, local media reports suggest that several other issues merit immediate attention from policy-makers and the public: teenage pregnancy and unplanned births to unmarried adolescents are widespread; child abuse and neglect are on the rise;³ and substance abuse and criminal justice-related activities appear to be significant problems among out-of-school

youth. Homicide among youth is a serious concern; in 2003, there were 779 murders in Puerto Rico, and the government has estimated that almost half of these crimes are drug-related and the majority of them involve young men.

Research conducted by local organizations also offers information on the issues facing children in Puerto Rico. For example, a recent study by several foundations identified the following areas as the most pressing concerns for Puerto Rico residents: economic and social problems, including poverty and poor health and education services; family problems, including domestic violence, child abuse, and family breakdown; poor public health and education opportunities; and drugs/substance abuse and crime.⁴ This confirms data compiled by the Office of Special Communities that shows that the most economically depressed and underdeveloped communities identified drug and alcohol use prevention and educational supports as two of their most pressing needs.⁵ Additional education research for the Chana Goldstein and Samuel Levis Foundation reveals, among other findings, that one in five students between the ages of 14 and 20 was at least two years behind in grade level in 2000.⁶ Moreover, a recent economic policy study on the benefits of a proposed Earned Income Tax benefit for low-wage workers in

Puerto Rico underscored that such a policy could have a positive effect on the economic security of 289,000 children on the Island.⁷

In addition, such research points to the larger economic and political context that must be considered when examining issues affecting children. From an economic standpoint, the Island faces serious challenges that have an impact on the well-being of families and children. During the 1990s, the formal economy did not enjoy the rapid expansion and boom that contributed to economic prosperity in the mainland U.S. In particular, Puerto Rico has experienced significantly higher unemployment rates than the U.S., and labor force participation, earnings, and income all remain very low compared to the U.S. Unemployment is also typically more than twice as high in Puerto Rico as in the States. A related issue is that local resources available to community-based organizations to implement programs for children and youth are limited. Furthermore, public policy, both locally and at the federal level, has not always been responsive to children or supportive of low-income families in Puerto Rico.

Both to address this information void and begin to identify strategies to improve the overall well-being of children in Puerto Rico, the National Council of La Raza (NCLR) has undertaken this first-ever, comprehensive analysis of the status of children on the Island. With support from the Annie E. Casey Foundation – as part of its 15-year effort to document the situation of children

in the 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands – and The UPS Foundation, the KIDS COUNT – Puerto Rico Project seeks to understand child-related status and trends by compiling existing data, highlighting additional areas where more knowledge is needed, and serving as a credible, reliable resource for data on children.

What is KIDS COUNT?

KIDS COUNT is a national and state-by-state project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation (AECF) to track the status of children in the United States, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

At the national level, the principal activity of the initiative is the publication of the annual *KIDS COUNT Data Book*, which uses the best available data to measure the educational, social, economic, and physical well-being of children state by state. AECF also funds a national network of state-level KIDS COUNT projects that provide a more detailed, local picture of the condition of children.

The KIDS COUNT – Puerto Rico Project is an effort to improve the health status, educational outcomes, and economic security of Puerto Rico's children. By providing policy-makers and citizens with benchmarks of child well-being, KIDS COUNT – Puerto Rico seeks to enrich local and national discussions of ways to secure better futures for all of our children. The following are the objectives of KIDS COUNT – Puerto Rico:

1. To provide independent, credible, comprehensive information on Puerto Rico's children.

2. To provide information and strategies on “what works” and promote best practices that will improve indicators of child well-being.
3. To stimulate dialogue on children’s issues and bring together individuals and organizations to develop strategies and solutions to improve children’s lives.
4. To promote information-based advocacy efforts to affect public policies and programs for the improvement of children’s lives.
5. To facilitate the sharing of a common vision for the future of Puerto Rico’s children.

How the Data Book is Organized

In addition to the Introduction and the Conclusions, the book is divided into three chapters. Chapter 1 presents a snapshot of children in Puerto Rico, providing a broad overview of population characteristics and key data from Census 2000 which are not available from local government agencies. Chapter 2 examines indicators related to child health, including low birth weight, infant mortality, and child mortality. Chapter 3 discusses adolescent concerns. Finally, the book offers some conclusions drawn from the data, particularly with respect to what various sectors in Puerto Rico can do – from research to nonprofits to public policy – to improve the status of

children. The book also includes an Appendix, which lists definitions of key indicators and data sources, discusses education data, and lists the KIDS COUNT- Puerto Rico Advisory Committee Members and government agency staff who helped to shape the book’s contents.

How to Use the *KIDS COUNT – Puerto Rico Data Book*

The *KIDS COUNT – Puerto Rico Data Book* provides a range of statistics that help to measure the well-being of children on the Island. This first data book is based on the national *KIDS COUNT Data Book* and focuses on data related to the following sets of indicators: health, education, family, and economic well-being (see Appendix A for the full list of national KIDS COUNT indicators and definitions).

The data presented in this book were obtained from Census 2000 and Puerto Rico government agencies. Time periods for the data vary by issue area; the book presents only those data that were considered reliable and consistent. Specifically, the data book includes and analyzes data from 1990 to 2000, as available. In most cases, the data were provided by the agencies exactly as they are presented here. The text notes those cases in which published data were calculated by NCLR. To be most helpful to a range of audiences, the data are first presented for the Island as a whole, then by specific municipalities.

Endnotes

1. Pares Arroyo, Marga, "Juventud emocionalmente marcada," *El Nuevo Día*, 9 de octubre de 2003, p. 16.
2. Census 2000 data indicate that 14% of youth between the ages of 16 and 19 are considered dropouts. This contrasts with other local sources, such as ASPIRA of Puerto Rico, which estimates that 51% of students in high school have dropped out. (See http://pr.aspira.org/about_PR_span.html). These disparities could reflect differences in how "dropout" is defined, what age groups are included in the pool examined, reporting or sampling errors, and other factors. For a more detailed explanation of the limitations of Census 2000 data in Puerto Rico, refer to Mather, Mark, *Children in Puerto Rico: Results from the 2000 Census*, Washington, DC: Population Reference Bureau, August 2003.
3. Nieves Ramírez, Gladys, "Un oasis en el gran desierto del maltrato," *El Nuevo Día*, 2 de diciembre de 2003, p. 55.
4. *Estudio sobre las necesidades sociales en Puerto Rico*, Resumen Ejecutivo, Puerto Rico: Estudios Técnicos, 2002.
5. *Perfil Socioeconómico de la población residente en comunidades especiales*, Puerto Rico, versión preliminar, Oficina para el Financiamiento Socioeconómico y la Autogestión, OCE, octubre 2003.
6. Cordero-Guzmán, Héctor R., and Pascua Padró Collazo, *Cambios en las características demográficas, niveles de educación, y la participación en la fuerza laboral de la población joven en Puerto Rico: Un análisis de los datos del censo de 1990 y 2000*, report for the Chana Goldstein and Samuel Levis Foundation, Final Version, January 15, 2004.
7. Enchautegui, María E., *Reaping the Benefits of Work: A Tax Credit for Low-Income Working Families in Puerto Rico*, San Juan, PR: Center for the New Economy, 2003.

CHAPTER 1

Snapshot of Children in Puerto Rico: 2000

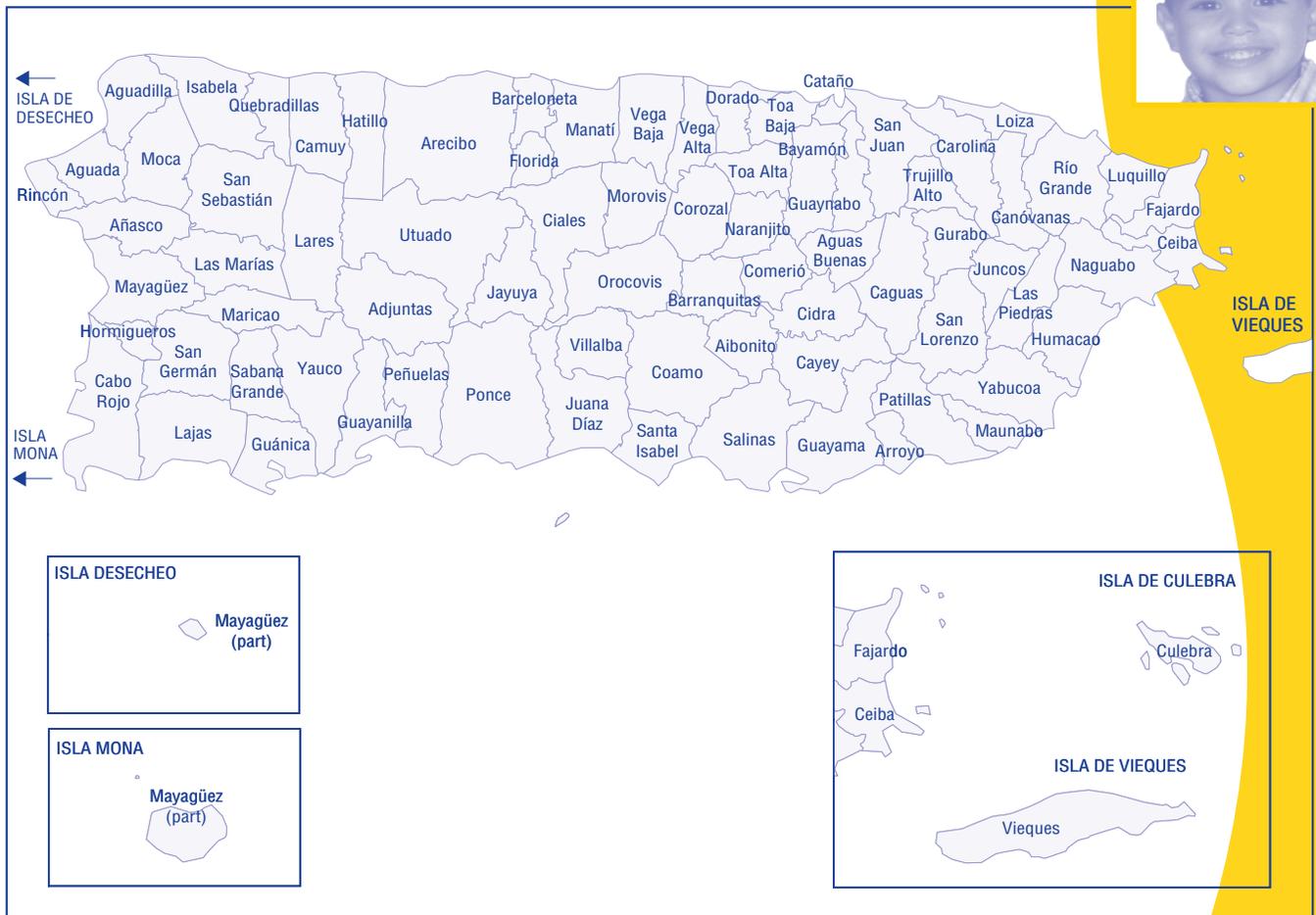
As the map below shows, Puerto Rico consists of 78 municipalities, which include both urban and rural areas.

The discussion that follows presents an overview of population and family characteristics, as well as socioeconomic data, on families and children* which are available only from the 2000 Census, providing the most current snapshot of children in Puerto Rico.



Map 1

Puerto Rico Municipalities



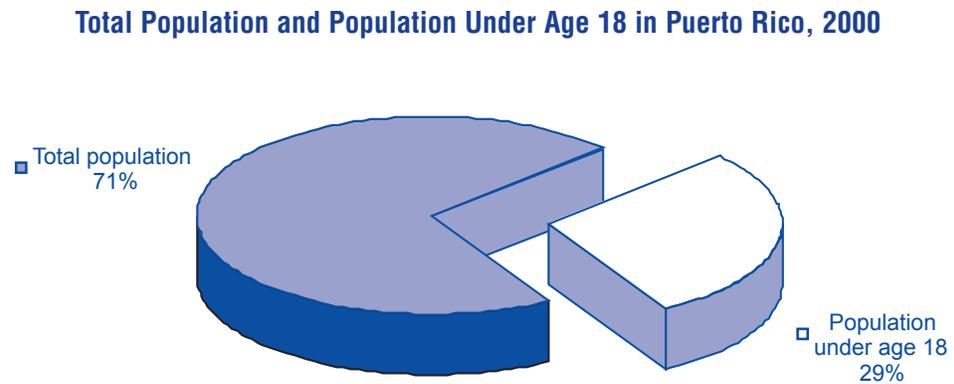
* Except where otherwise noted, the data in this chapter are taken from the report, *Children in Puerto Rico: Results from the 2000 Census*, prepared by Mark Mather of the Population Reference Bureau, August 2003.

Population Characteristics

Data from the most recent decennial Census show that the total population of Puerto Rico consisted of 3,808,610 people in 2000. Three in ten residents in Puerto Rico (29%) – 1,092,101 people – are children

under 18 years of age, as Figure 1 below shows. Overall, Island-wide data show that there are more male children than female children, distributed among the four age groups, as shown in Figure 2.

Figure 1



Source: NCLR analysis of data from *Children in Puerto Rico: Results from the 2000 Census*, Mark Mather, Population Reference Bureau, August 2003.



Figure 2

Child Population in Puerto Rico by Gender and by Age Group, 2000

	Age Group								Total	Percent
	Under 5 years		5 to 9 years		10 to 14 years		15 to 17 years			
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
Female	144,119	13.2%	148,909	13.6%	149,816	13.7%	90,678	8.3%	533,522	48.9%
Male	151,287	13.9%	156,253	14.3%	155,984	14.3%	95,055	8.7%	558,579	51.1%
Total	295,406	27.1%	305,162	27.9%	305,800	28.0%	185,733	17.0%	1,092,101	100.0%

Source: NCLR analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1 (SF1).

As Figure 3 illustrates, among all the municipalities, Hormigueros and Mayagüez have the smallest proportion of children (24% each), while there are four

municipalities in which children account for 35% of the total municipality population (Barranquitas, Loíza, Morovis, and Peñuelas).



Figure 3

Total Population and the Population Under Age 18 in Puerto Rico, by Municipality, 2000

Area	Total population	Population under age 18	Percent under age 18	Area	Total population	Population under age 18	Percent under age 18
Puerto Rico	3,808,610	1,092,101	29%				
Adjuntas	19,143	6,174	32%	Juncos	36,452	10,750	29%
Aguada	42,042	12,529	30%	Lajas	26,261	7,196	27%
Aguadilla	64,685	17,759	27%	Lares	34,415	10,531	31%
Aguas Buenas	29,032	8,521	29%	Las Marías	11,061	3,343	30%
Aibonito	26,493	8,088	31%	Las Piedras	34,485	10,031	29%
Añasco	28,348	8,025	28%	Loíza	32,537	11,441	35%
Arecibo	100,131	26,617	27%	Luquillo	19,817	5,779	29%
Arroyo	19,117	6,028	32%	Manatí	45,409	13,420	30%
Barceloneta	22,322	6,625	30%	Maricao	6,449	2,080	32%
Barranquitas	28,909	10,216	35%	Maunabo	12,741	3,854	30%
Bayamón	224,044	59,999	27%	Mayagüez	98,434	23,664	24%
Cabo Rojo	46,911	12,018	26%	Moca	39,697	12,005	30%
Caguas	140,502	39,103	28%	Morovis	29,965	10,401	35%
Camuy	35,244	10,327	29%	Naguabo	23,753	6,911	29%
Canóvanas	43,335	13,635	31%	Naranjito	29,709	9,386	32%
Carolina	186,076	48,934	26%	Orocovis	23,844	8,165	34%
Cataño	30,071	9,615	32%	Patillas	20,152	6,098	30%
Cayey	47,370	13,496	28%	Peñuelas	26,719	9,237	35%
Ceiba	18,004	5,234	29%	Ponce	186,475	54,777	29%
Ciales	19,811	6,593	33%	Quebradillas	25,450	7,643	30%
Cidra	42,753	13,107	31%	Rincón	14,767	3,872	26%
Coamo	37,597	12,056	32%	Río Grande	52,362	15,617	30%
Comerio	20,002	6,283	31%	Sabana Grande	25,935	7,400	29%
Corozal	36,867	11,742	32%	Salinas	31,113	9,963	32%
Culebra	1,868	517	28%	San Germán	37,105	9,746	26%
Dorado	34,017	9,835	29%	San Juan	434,374	107,665	25%
Fajardo	40,712	11,789	29%	San Lorenzo	40,997	12,224	30%
Florida	12,367	3,794	31%	San Sebastián	44,204	12,309	28%
Guánica	21,888	6,530	30%	Santa Isabel	21,665	7,213	33%
Guayama	44,301	13,490	30%	Toa Alta	63,929	20,903	33%
Guayanilla	23,072	6,924	30%	Toa Baja	94,085	27,447	29%
Guaynabo	100,053	26,302	26%	Trujillo Alto	75,728	22,170	29%
Gurabo	36,743	10,862	30%	Utuado	35,336	10,860	31%
Hatillo	38,925	11,389	29%	Vega Alta	37,910	11,601	31%
Hormigueros	16,614	3,931	24%	Vega Baja	61,929	18,830	30%
Humacao	59,035	16,828	29%	Vieques	9,106	2,704	30%
Isabela	44,444	12,356	28%	Villalba	27,913	9,629	34%
Jayuya	17,318	5,925	34%	Yabucoa	39,246	11,735	30%
Juana Díaz	50,531	16,512	33%	Yauco	46,384	13,793	30%

Source: *Children in Puerto Rico: Results from the 2000 Census*, Mark Mather, Population Reference Bureau, August 2003.

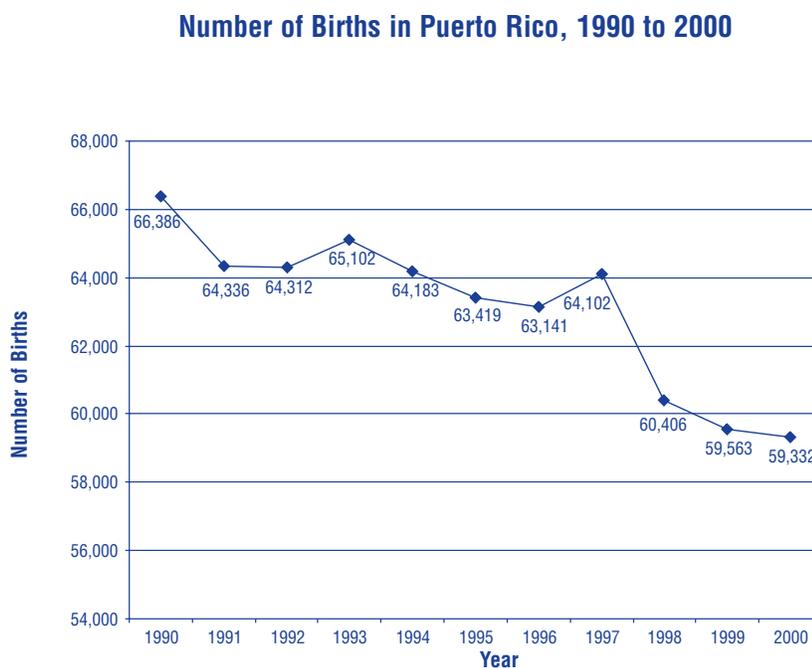


Births

In 2000, there were 59,332 births in Puerto Rico, reflecting a decrease of more than 7,000 births since 1990 and a downtrend in number of births over the decade. As Figure 5 shows, in 2000, all municipalities experienced a decrease in the number of

births compared to 1990 figures, except for Aguas Buenas, Barceloneta, Cabo Rojo, Dorado, Florida, Gurabo, Hormigueros, Juncos, Lajas, Las Piedras, Moca, Santa Isabel, Toa Alta, Trujillo Alto, and Vega Alta.

Figure 4



Source: NCLR analysis of data from the Mothers, Children, and Adolescents Division, Department of Health, Puerto Rico, March 2004.



Figure 5

Number of Births in Puerto Rico, by Mother's Place of Residence, 1990 to 2000

Mother's Place of Residence	Number of Births per Year										
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Puerto Rico	66,386	64,336	64,312	65,102	64,183	63,419	63,141	64,102	60,406	59,563	59,332
Adjuntas	423	355	373	376	360	361	327	379	306	300	307
Aguada	681	592	657	609	641	665	653	679	607	624	600
Aguadilla	953	964	975	1,060	1,012	1,002	923	1,020	892	902	888
Aguas Buenas	441	472	461	450	464	456	472	492	469	493	465
Aibonito	537	485	457	505	472	453	442	488	477	386	434
Añasco	434	407	442	476	432	465	459	450	437	424	408
Arecibo	1,686	1,651	1,555	1,618	1,583	1,623	1,620	1,578	1,549	1,454	1,470
Arroyo	366	350	367	372	363	348	350	353	310	286	299
Barceloneta	389	387	390	397	408	410	445	405	367	357	400
Barranquitas	652	592	592	607	576	586	643	600	528	470	455
Bayamón	4,021	3,978	3,853	3,745	3,738	3,579	3,783	3,773	3,493	3,574	3,460
Cabo Rojo	583	599	607	657	623	635	670	664	654	673	669
Caguas	2,477	2,449	2,470	2,602	2,560	2,401	2,403	2,432	2,261	2,262	2,276
Camuy	546	557	552	590	548	563	588	540	561	537	518
Canóvanas	813	880	883	953	822	840	853	861	826	823	782
Carolina	2,994	2,935	2,914	3,029	2,954	2,989	2,925	2,920	2,714	2,729	2,891
Cataño	769	704	651	611	671	587	548	590	516	513	514
Cayey	891	877	828	870	817	788	837	837	806	739	745
Ceiba	365	355	349	384	347	323	311	304	305	278	293
Ciales	395	360	370	378	333	360	356	367	323	361	335
Cidra	650	643	640	627	639	653	632	650	664	611	619
Coamo	704	688	675	620	679	612	636	708	658	669	607
Comerío	433	390	377	356	374	366	360	349	342	258	330
Corozal	726	682	644	654	635	658	663	638	654	546	597
Culebra	29	29	45	34	38	22	33	36	26	16	25
Dorado	580	573	535	544	550	562	510	527	572	593	647
Fajardo	747	724	741	722	745	737	736	712	718	690	655
Florida	190	189	185	201	206	190	184	208	200	200	196
Guánica	331	336	367	395	387	331	325	374	354	330	299
Guayama	882	806	839	786	770	814	841	819	781	762	751
Guayanilla	422	380	381	397	372	393	365	401	405	357	345
Guaynabo	1,690	1,626	1,644	1,723	1,599	1,678	1,637	1,586	1,589	1,471	1,469
Gurabo	540	507	569	583	550	584	558	564	583	574	560
Hatillo	547	569	573	565	551	557	586	586	569	547	527
Hormigueros	178	211	210	202	256	204	211	208	216	213	240
Humacao	1,057	1,070	1,040	1,044	1,031	988	1,031	1,088	944	935	1,048
Isabela	708	675	683	668	636	674	663	680	609	619	683
Jayuya	339	345	323	339	336	313	311	323	333	306	278
Juana Díaz	921	895	928	953	902	938	923	985	904	867	852

Continued on next page

Source: Mothers, Children, and Adolescents Division, Department of Health, Puerto Rico, March 2004.



Figure 5: Number of Births in Puerto Rico, by Mother's Place of Residence, 1990 to 2000, (Cont.)

Mother's Place of Residence	Number of Births per Year										
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Juncos	539	535	576	579	565	578	513	582	575	577	605
Lajas	364	367	377	440	427	342	381	418	387	372	380
Lares	576	536	557	564	511	568	552	556	497	520	518
Las Marías	163	145	149	175	166	152	164	176	157	139	149
Las Piedras	533	476	522	554	565	529	531	554	534	529	571
Loíza	625	541	607	569	502	535	469	484	453	407	461
Luquillo	361	358	352	379	343	362	345	359	333	337	297
Manatí	827	775	797	772	825	823	810	800	777	827	780
Maricao	144	99	119	116	103	115	131	126	121	107	104
Maunabo	237	229	223	240	239	224	213	210	165	185	166
Mayagüez	1,641	1,554	1,565	1,583	1,596	1,585	1,548	1,455	1,486	1,366	1,328
Moca	573	535	568	600	622	599	624	686	642	672	644
Morovis	573	537	509	551	565	531	634	589	545	587	546
Naguabo	436	380	403	437	380	412	352	397	362	370	372
Naranjito	585	575	572	542	548	570	539	550	525	495	525
Orocovis	507	491	416	530	508	463	424	470	411	430	390
Patillas	395	391	339	386	374	345	361	323	346	292	316
Peñuelas	514	461	504	433	495	456	444	489	440	478	482
Ponce	3,967	3,855	3,639	3,667	3,455	3,509	3,369	3,323	3,034	3,069	2,985
Quebradillas	391	393	393	387	386	412	448	412	422	393	380
Rincón	223	200	202	232	243	255	255	252	196	245	216
Río Grande	885	816	881	843	855	925	897	888	843	838	825
Sabana Grande	407	404	405	417	411	418	406	446	433	423	369
Salinas	621	577	572	632	607	588	585	573	584	554	541
San Germán	564	590	617	611	565	581	574	573	532	616	518
San Juan	7,837	7,655	7,690	7,369	7,425	7,068	6,994	6,947	6,537	6,440	6,467
San Lorenzo	601	630	599	642	647	618	639	660	626	624	567
San Sebastián	637	629	582	589	638	666	607	709	629	632	636
Santa Isabel	437	408	471	414	401	465	472	488	421	451	441
Toa Alta	883	879	855	903	929	990	993	1,139	1,081	1,049	1,049
Toa Baja	1,553	1,554	1,537	1,624	1,531	1,472	1,495	1,592	1,466	1,484	1,560
Trujillo Alto	1,047	1,046	1,133	1,184	1,143	1,131	1,141	1,185	1,121	1,164	1,120
Utuado	638	587	562	646	590	562	593	555	536	476	490
Vega Alta	649	642	616	613	642	646	608	645	565	636	602
Vega Baja	1,137	1,132	1,131	1,088	1,169	1,133	1,149	1,150	1,119	1,074	1,059
Vieques	204	182	169	168	173	138	183	165	130	147	128
Villalba	554	538	553	521	557	552	558	579	489	543	493
Yabucoa	639	600	655	638	717	672	629	648	633	594	613
Yauco	829	747	750	762	785	721	698	775	731	672	702



Source: Mothers, Children, and Adolescents Division, Department of Health, Puerto Rico, March 2004.

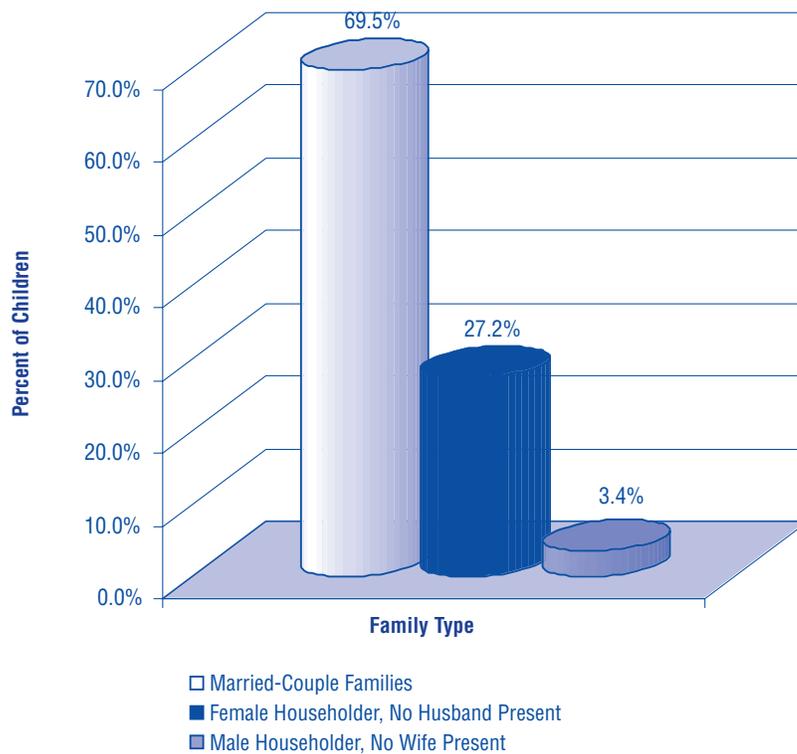
Family Size and Structure

Family size and structure are important determinants of the overall economic well-being of children. According to the U.S. Census, in 2000, the average family size in Puerto Rico was three people. Most children in Puerto Rico live in married-couple families, but almost one-third of

children in Puerto Rico (31%) live in one-householder families, which are predominantly headed by females, as illustrated in Figure 6. The proportion of female-headed households in Puerto Rico has increased from 22% in 1990 to 27% in 2000.

Figure 6

Child Population in Puerto Rico by Family Type, 2000



Source: NCLR analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 1 (SF1).

Economic Security

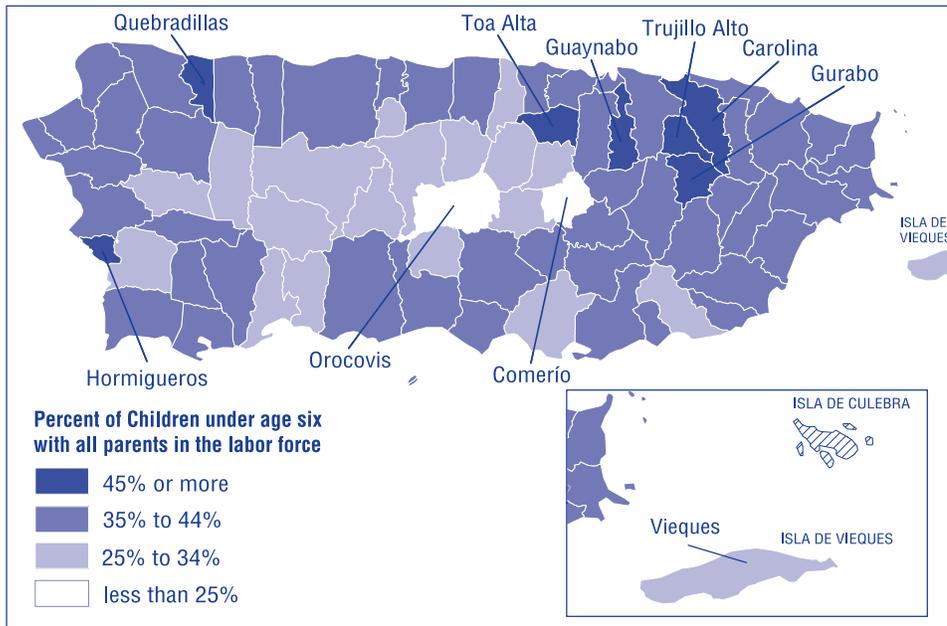
Parents in the Labor Force

Overall, two in five children in Puerto Rico have parents who are working or looking for work. Among the municipalities, Hormigueros and Guaynabo have the

largest proportions of children with parents in the labor force, while Comerío and Orocovis have the smallest, as shown in Figure 7.

Map 2

Children Under Age Six With All Parents in the Labor Force, 2000



Note: Data for Culebra are not shown because of the small sample size.

Source: *Children in Puerto Rico: Results from the 2000 Census*, Mark Mather, Population Reference Bureau, August 2003.



**Children Under Age Six With All Parents in the Labor Force
in Puerto Rico, by Municipality, 2000**

Area	Children under age six	Children under age six with all parents in the labor force	Percent	Area	Children under age six	Children under age six with all parents in the labor force	Percent
Puerto Rico	336,446	133,324	40%				
Adjuntas	1,659	443	27%	Juncos	3,519	1,290	37%
Aguada	3,889	1,613	41%	Lajas	2,218	912	41%
Aguadilla	5,418	1,962	36%	Lares	3,084	800	26%
Aguas Buenas	2,554	937	37%	Las Marías	1,034	310	30%
Aibonito	2,222	829	37%	Las Piedras	3,158	1,141	36%
Añasco	2,515	1,027	41%	Loíza	3,175	1,100	35%
Arecibo	8,384	2,925	35%	Luquillo	1,835	740	40%
Arroyo	1,751	607	35%	Manatí	4,268	1,523	36%
Barceloneta	2,279	922	40%	Maricao	532	198	37%
Barranquitas	3,048	834	27%	Maunabo	986	424	43%
Bayamón	18,557	8,061	43%	Mayagüez	7,076	2,964	42%
Cabo Rojo	4,006	1,594	40%	Moca	4,067	1,551	38%
Caguas	12,313	5,263	43%	Morovis	3,272	1,099	34%
Camuy	3,337	1,418	42%	Naguabo	2,111	876	41%
Canóvanas	4,140	1,626	39%	Naranjito	2,791	763	27%
Carolina	15,538	7,313	47%	Orocovis	2,471	605	24%
Cataño	2,810	1,001	36%	Patillas	1,748	597	34%
Cayey	4,048	1,644	41%	Peñuelas	2,692	779	29%
Ceiba	1,810	786	43%	Ponce	16,226	6,453	40%
Ciales	1,846	607	33%	Quebradillas	2,452	1,096	45%
Cidra	4,059	1,597	39%	Rincón	1,221	523	43%
Coamo	3,830	1,526	40%	Río Grande	4,918	1,977	40%
Comerio	1,670	386	23%	Sabana Grande	2,570	960	37%
Corozal	3,426	996	29%	Salinas	3,188	1,087	34%
Culebra	141	85	---	San Germán	2,959	991	33%
Dorado	3,106	1,191	38%	San Juan	33,753	14,618	43%
Fajardo	3,744	1,608	43%	San Lorenzo	3,711	1,420	38%
Florida	1,257	407	32%	San Sebastián	3,762	1,474	39%
Guánica	1,956	681	35%	Santa Isabel	2,441	1,052	43%
Guayama	4,194	1,706	41%	Toa Alta	6,831	3,187	47%
Guayanilla	2,120	670	32%	Toa Baja	8,341	3,604	43%
Guaynabo	7,936	3,775	48%	Trujillo Alto	7,043	3,327	47%
Gurabo	3,612	1,685	47%	Utua	3,018	994	33%
Hatillo	3,432	1,277	37%	Vega Alta	3,462	1,137	33%
Hormigueros	1,274	627	49%	Vega Baja	5,746	2,214	39%
Humacao	5,108	1,793	35%	Vieques	690	228	33%
Isabela	3,744	1,339	36%	Villalba	3,015	1,003	33%
Jayuya	1,707	565	33%	Yabucoa	3,502	1,275	36%
Juana Díaz	4,998	2,092	42%	Yauco	4,122	1,614	39%

Note: Percentage for Culebra is not shown because there are fewer than 200 cases in the denominator.

Source: *Children in Puerto Rico: Results from the 2000 Census*, Mark Mather, Population Reference Bureau, August 2003.



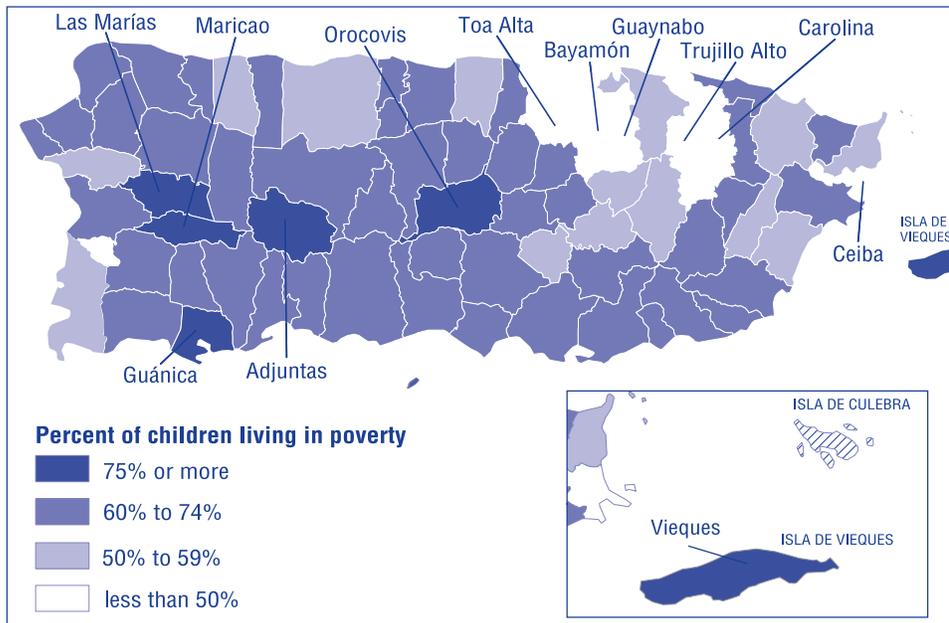
Poverty*

Less than two-thirds (58.4%) of the child population in Puerto Rico live below the poverty level – a decrease from 1990 data, which showed that 67% of Puerto Rican children were poor. Elementary school-age children (between six and 11 years of age)

constitute the group with the highest proportion of children in poverty, as Figure 9, on page 13 shows, although this share does not differ greatly from that of other age groups.

Map 3

Child Poverty Rates in Puerto Rico, 1999



Note: Data for Culebra are not shown because of the small sample size.

Source: *Children in Puerto Rico: Results from the 2000 Census*, Mark Mather, Population Reference Bureau, August 2003.



* According to Census definitions, poverty thresholds vary by family size and composition. In 1999, the poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children was \$16,895. Poverty status is not determined for people in military barracks or institutional quarters, or for unrelated individuals under age 15.

Figure 8

Related Children Below the Poverty Line in Puerto Rico, by Municipality, 1999

Area	Number of related children below poverty line	Percent of related children below poverty line	Area	Number of related children below poverty line	Percent of related children below poverty line
Puerto Rico	626,521	58%			
Adjuntas	4,566	75%	Juncos	6,594	62%
Aguada	8,464	68%	Lajas	4,805	68%
Aguadilla	11,084	65%	Lares	7,684	74%
Aguas Buenas	4,876	58%	Las Marías	2,508	76%
Aibonito	4,712	59%	Las Piedras	5,400	54%
Añasco	4,741	59%	Loíza	7,689	68%
Arecibo	15,500	59%	Luquillo	3,584	63%
Arroyo	3,884	66%	Manatí	8,071	60%
Barceloneta	4,183	64%	Maricao	1,556	77%
Barranquitas	6,895	69%	Maunabo	2,632	70%
Bayamón	26,180	44%	Mayagüez	14,239	62%
Cabo Rojo	6,573	56%	Moca	7,800	66%
Caguas	19,346	50%	Morovis	7,026	68%
Camuy	6,034	59%	Naguabo	4,380	64%
Canóvanas	8,552	63%	Naranjito	5,868	63%
Carolina	21,810	45%	Orocovis	6,039	75%
Cataño	5,588	59%	Patillas	3,621	60%
Cayey	7,902	60%	Peñuelas	6,405	70%
Ceiba	2,228	43%	Ponce	35,221	65%
Ciales	4,735	73%	Quebradillas	4,793	64%
Cidra	6,774	53%	Rincón	2,469	65%
Coamo	7,846	66%	Río Grande	8,424	54%
Comerio	4,278	70%	Sabana Grande	4,435	61%
Corozal	7,637	66%	Salinas	6,628	68%
Culebra	192	---	San Germán	5,892	62%
Dorado	4,736	49%	San Juan	58,965	56%
Fajardo	6,158	53%	San Lorenzo	7,331	61%
Florida	2,356	62%	San Sebastián	7,875	65%
Guánica	4,772	75%	Santa Isabel	4,682	66%
Guayama	8,150	62%	Toa Alta	9,038	44%
Guayanilla	4,398	64%	Toa Baja	13,155	49%
Guaynabo	10,863	42%	Trujillo Alto	8,894	41%
Gurabo	5,249	49%	Utua	7,529	71%
Hatillo	7,197	64%	Vega Alta	7,218	63%
Hormigueros	1,892	48%	Vega Baja	11,033	59%
Humacao	9,453	57%	Vieques	2,187	81%
Isabela	7,660	63%	Villalba	6,608	69%
Jayuya	4,201	72%	Yabucoa	7,389	63%
Juana Díaz	10,321	64%	Yauco	8,868	65%

Note: Percentage for Culebra is not shown because there are fewer than 200 cases in the denominator.

Source: *Children in Puerto Rico: Results from the 2000 Census*, Mark Mather, Population Reference Bureau, August 2003.



Figure 9

Child Population Below the Poverty Line in Puerto Rico, by Age Group, 1999

Age Group	Children Below Poverty Level		
	Total Child Population	Number	Percent
Under 5 years	291,113	167,510	57.5%
5 years	59,796	35,095	58.7%
6 to 11 years	365,617	217,872	59.6%
12 to 17 years	364,985	211,412	57.9%
Total	1,081,511	631,889	58.4%

Source: NCLR analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF3).



Figure 10

Children and Families Below the Poverty Line in Puerto Rico, 1989 and 1999

Segment of the Population	1989		1999		Percent change in number below poverty line
	Number below poverty line	Percent below poverty line	Number below poverty line	Percent below poverty line	
Related children under age 18	761,789	67%	626,521	58%	-18%
Under age 5	203,538	68%	167,510	58%	-18%
Ages 5 to 17	558,251	66%	459,011	59%	-18%
Families	492,025	55%	450,254	45%	-8%
With related children under age 18	339,312	62%	297,649	53%	-12%
Female-headed families	142,737	70%	159,205	61%	12%
With related children under age 18	101,393	78%	113,942	71%	12%

Source: *Children in Puerto Rico: Results from the 2000 Census*, Mark Mather, Population Reference Bureau, August 2003.

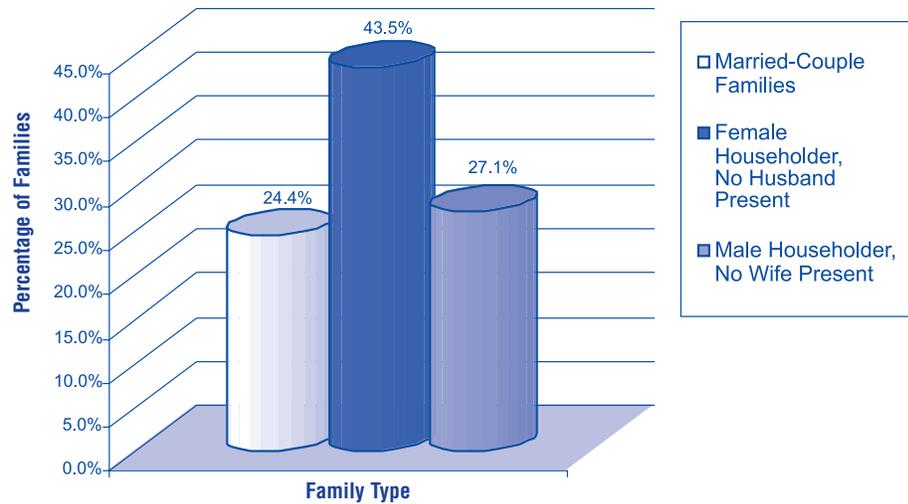
More than two in five (43.5%) female-headed households and related children under 18 years of age in Puerto Rico live

below the poverty level, as illustrated in Figure 11, on page 14.*

* Related children include people under age 18 related to the householder (excluding spouses).

Figure 11

Proportion of Families Below Poverty Level in Puerto Rico, by Family Type, and by Presence of Related Children Under 18 Years, 1999



Source: NCLR analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF3).



Nutritional and General Assistance

Data from the Puerto Rico Department of the Family help to provide supplementary information on the economic status of families on the Island and the needs of children. As an example, 27% of Puerto Rico's residents (1,041,255 people) received nutritional assistance (*Programa de Asistencia Nutricional*, PAN) in fiscal year 2002. This translates to 419,639 families, and represents a decrease of 7,737 families from the previous fiscal year. Additionally, data on the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program show that, as of June 2000, there were 68,347 active cases of persons and families receiving economic assistance (this includes elderly, blind, and disabled individuals, in addition to child and general assistance cases).

Overview

The period before birth and up through a child’s first birthday is critical in a child’s development and helps to predict progress and status in a number of areas later in life, from education to health. Babies whose mothers receive adequate prenatal care and who make positive choices with respect to nutrition and use of harmful substances are likely to be healthy with fewer complications. In addition, children who are born to families in which both parents are assuming their social, financial, and other responsibilities for their children, and in communities with economic stability and educational opportunity, have a greater chance at good health and overall life success than those born in poverty and in unhealthy physical environments. This chapter reviews status and trends for the following child health indicators:

- **Low birth weight**, an indicator of poor prenatal care and other factors that can lead to health and development concerns.
- **Infant mortality**, for children from birth to one year.
- **Child mortality**, for children aged one to 14 years.

Low Birth Weight

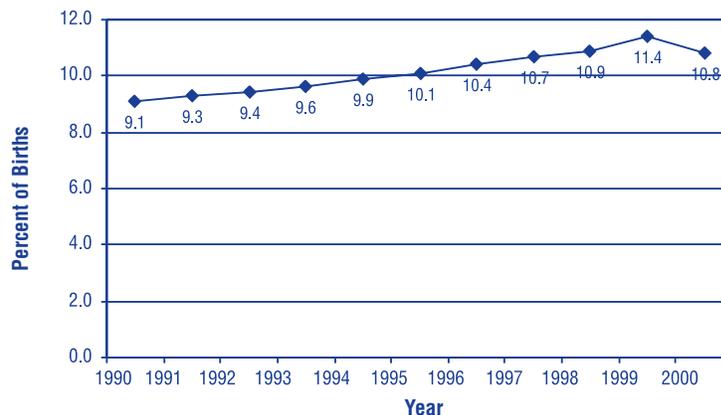
The percent of low birth weight babies born in Puerto Rico increased from 1990 to 1999, but experienced a slight decrease from 1999 to 2000, as shown in Figure 12.

In 2000, 10.8% of all babies born in Puerto Rico – a total of 6,402 babies – were born weighing less than 5 lbs. 8 oz. The share of low birth weight babies ranged from 6.12% in Florida to 21.15% in Maricao.



Figure 12

Percent of Low Birth Weight Babies in Puerto Rico, 1990 to 2000



Source: Mothers, Children, and Adolescents Division, Department of Health, Puerto Rico, March 2004.

**Number and Percent of Low Birth Weight Babies in Puerto Rico,
by Mother's Place of Residence, 1990 to 2000**

Mother's Place of Residence	1990		1991		1992		1993		1994		1995	
	Number	Percent										
Puerto Rico	6,064	9.14%	5,941	9.24%	6,039	9.39%	6,218	9.55%	6,341	9.88%	6,427	10.14%
Adjuntas	35	8.27%	41	11.55%	32	8.58%	39	10.37%	30	8.33%	28	7.76%
Aguada	38	5.58%	47	7.94%	52	7.93%	50	8.21%	60	9.36%	67	10.08%
Aguadilla	74	7.76%	80	8.30%	72	7.38%	117	11.04%	92	9.09%	91	9.08%
Aguas Buenas	39	8.84%	39	8.26%	48	10.41%	46	10.22%	42	9.05%	39	8.55%
Aibonito	34	6.33%	54	11.13%	39	8.53%	51	10.10%	43	9.11%	40	8.83%
Añasco	58	13.36%	52	12.78%	46	10.41%	50	10.50%	49	11.34%	49	10.56%
Arecibo	181	10.74%	177	10.72%	175	11.25%	-	-	177	11.18%	175	10.78%
Arroyo	37	10.11%	36	10.29%	32	8.72%	24	6.47%	37	10.19%	31	8.91%
Barceloneta	21	5.40%	31	8.01%	38	9.74%	37	9.32%	33	8.09%	38	9.27%
Barranquitas	61	9.36%	48	8.11%	50	8.45%	65	10.71%	46	7.99%	48	8.19%
Bayamón	332	8.26%	332	8.35%	327	8.49%	294	7.85%	333	8.91%	321	8.97%
Cabo Rojo	63	10.81%	46	7.68%	61	10.05%	59	8.98%	73	11.72%	63	9.94%
Caguas	238	9.61%	248	10.13%	245	9.92%	280	10.76%	269	10.51%	283	11.79%
Camuy	46	8.42%	51	9.16%	62	11.23%	80	13.56%	65	11.86%	71	12.63%
Canóvanas	76	9.35%	71	8.10%	78	8.84%	83	8.71%	75	9.14%	84	10.00%
Carolina	246	8.22%	259	8.82%	264	9.06%	260	8.59%	298	10.09%	314	10.52%
Cataño	74	9.62%	65	9.25%	73	11.21%	69	11.31%	68	10.15%	67	11.43%
Cayey	73	8.19%	91	10.38%	87	10.51%	76	8.74%	92	11.27%	78	9.91%
Ceiba	31	8.49%	33	9.30%	27	7.74%	26	6.77%	33	9.51%	22	6.81%
Ciales	27	6.84%	29	8.06%	38	10.30%	31	8.20%	33	9.91%	40	11.11%
Cidra	78	12.00%	57	8.86%	44	6.88%	47	7.50%	58	9.08%	71	10.87%
Coamo	62	8.81%	62	9.01%	56	8.31%	48	7.75%	63	9.28%	56	9.15%
Comerío	51	11.78%	43	11.03%	29	7.69%	39	10.96%	40	10.70%	51	13.93%
Corozal	49	6.75%	55	8.06%	59	9.16%	58	8.87%	51	8.04%	58	8.83%
Culebra	3	10.34%	1	3.45%	7	15.56%	3	8.82%	4	10.53%	3	13.64%
Dorado	49	8.46%	49	8.55%	62	11.59%	36	6.62%	46	8.36%	50	8.90%
Fajardo	66	8.84%	60	8.30%	87	11.74%	66	9.14%	76	10.20%	78	10.58%
Florida	18	9.47%	14	7.45%	18	9.73%	23	11.44%	21	10.19%	26	13.76%
Guánica	28	8.46%	28	8.33%	36	9.81%	43	10.89%	43	11.14%	32	9.67%
Guayama	78	8.85%	80	9.93%	79	9.42%	80	10.18%	77	10.00%	79	9.71%
Guayanilla	37	8.79%	32	8.42%	33	8.66%	35	8.82%	44	11.89%	31	7.89%
Guaynabo	122	7.22%	154	9.47%	137	8.33%	143	8.30%	141	8.82%	165	9.83%
Gurabo	57	10.56%	58	11.46%	61	10.72%	63	10.81%	52	9.45%	76	13.01%
Hatillo	51	9.32%	46	8.08%	46	8.03%	52	9.20%	62	11.25%	45	8.08%
Hormigueros	17	9.55%	17	8.06%	14	6.67%	17	8.42%	24	9.38%	16	7.84%
Humacao	103	9.77%	101	9.46%	106	10.19%	106	10.16%	89	8.63%	93	9.41%
Isabela	59	8.35%	63	9.35%	59	8.64%	52	7.78%	67	10.53%	84	12.46%
Jayuya	34	10.03%	24	6.96%	30	9.29%	38	11.21%	30	8.93%	26	8.31%
Juana Díaz	82	8.91%	77	8.61%	91	9.81%	108	11.33%	78	8.65%	80	8.53%

Continued on next page

Source: Mothers, Children, and Adolescents Division, Department of Health, Puerto Rico, March 2004.



Figure 13: Number and Percent of Low Birth Weight Babies in Puerto Rico, by Mother's Place of Residence, 1990 to 2000 (Cont.)

Mother's Place of Residence	1996		1997		1998		1999		2000	
	Number	Percent								
Puerto Rico	6,570	10.41%	6,833	10.66%	6,602	10.93%	6,791	11.40%	6,402	10.80%
Adjuntas	36	11.01%	38	10.03%	38	12.42%	41	13.67%	36	11.73%
Aguada	54	8.27%	69	10.16%	60	9.88%	64	10.26%	63	10.50%
Aguadilla	90	9.75%	117	11.47%	84	9.42%	112	12.42%	89	10.02%
Aguas Buenas	54	11.46%	54	10.98%	54	11.54%	41	8.32%	49	10.54%
Aibonito	40	9.05%	51	10.45%	56	11.74%	51	13.21%	37	8.53%
Añasco	47	10.24%	59	13.11%	48	10.98%	51	12.03%	45	11.03%
Arecibo	180	11.11%	190	12.04%	186	12.01%	181	12.45%	173	11.77%
Arroyo	33	9.43%	25	7.08%	26	8.39%	29	10.18%	33	11.04%
Barceloneta	45	10.11%	36	8.89%	25	6.81%	25	7.00%	47	11.75%
Barranquitas	70	10.89%	53	8.83%	59	11.17%	43	9.15%	49	10.77%
Bayamón	369	9.76%	354	9.38%	400	11.45%	484	13.54%	375	10.85%
Cabo Rojo	71	10.60%	86	12.95%	88	13.46%	86	12.78%	74	11.08%
Caguas	280	11.66%	283	11.64%	273	12.07%	326	14.43%	297	13.05%
Camuy	56	9.52%	52	9.63%	50	8.91%	75	13.97%	35	6.76%
Canóvanas	93	10.92%	90	10.45%	80	9.69%	91	11.06%	87	11.14%
Carolina	301	10.29%	289	9.90%	306	11.27%	316	11.58%	290	10.04%
Cataño	62	11.31%	78	13.22%	64	12.40%	69	13.45%	60	11.67%
Cayey	79	9.45%	84	10.05%	72	8.93%	71	9.62%	75	10.07%
Ceiba	14	4.50%	29	9.54%	28	9.18%	26	9.35%	26	8.87%
Ciales	39	10.96%	34	9.26%	42	13.00%	36	9.97%	25	7.46%
Cidra	79	12.50%	68	10.46%	79	11.90%	66	10.80%	62	10.02%
Coamo	51	8.02%	81	11.44%	70	10.64%	77	11.51%	55	9.08%
Comerío	31	8.61%	40	11.46%	50	14.66%	31	12.11%	34	10.30%
Corozal	72	10.86%	73	11.46%	56	8.56%	61	11.19%	59	9.88%
Culebra	6	18.18%	7	19.44%	2	7.69%	2	12.50%	5	20.00%
Dorado	53	10.39%	41	7.78%	58	10.14%	64	10.79%	78	12.06%
Fajardo	87	11.84%	91	12.78%	88	12.26%	74	10.72%	68	10.38%
Florida	17	9.24%	23	11.06%	13	6.50%	11	5.50%	12	6.12%
Guánica	31	9.54%	50	13.37%	55	15.54%	43	13.03%	29	9.70%
Guayama	97	11.55%	81	9.89%	71	9.09%	71	9.32%	63	8.39%
Guayanilla	39	10.68%	37	9.23%	44	10.86%	43	12.04%	36	10.43%
Guaynabo	173	10.57%	173	10.91%	166	10.45%	132	8.98%	146	9.95%
Gurabo	65	11.65%	57	10.11%	78	13.38%	71	12.37%	60	10.71%
Hatillo	56	9.56%	55	9.39%	63	11.07%	62	11.33%	56	10.63%
Hormigueros	19	9.00%	16	7.69%	26	12.04%	14	6.57%	16	6.67%
Humacao	105	10.18%	126	11.58%	106	11.23%	76	8.13%	110	10.51%
Isabela	70	10.56%	81	11.91%	52	8.54%	66	10.66%	70	10.25%
Jayuya	30	9.65%	42	13.00%	37	11.14%	32	10.46%	25	8.99%
Juana Díaz	97	10.51%	105	10.66%	101	11.17%	72	8.30%	79	9.27%

Continued on next page

Source: Mothers, Children, and Adolescents Division, Department of Health, Puerto Rico, March 2004.



Figure 13: Number and Percent of Low Birth Weight Babies in Puerto Rico, by Mother's Place of Residence, 1990 to 2000 (Cont.)

Mother's Place of Residence	1990		1991		1992		1993		1994		1995	
	Number	Percent										
Juncos	47	8.72%	61	11.40%	61	10.59%	56	9.69%	67	11.86%	67	11.59%
Lajas	52	14.29%	39	10.63%	52	13.79%	46	10.45%	48	11.24%	40	11.70%
Lares	57	9.90%	51	9.51%	65	11.67%	58	10.28%	60	11.76%	59	10.39%
Las Marías	18	11.04%	23	15.86%	15	10.07%	19	10.86%	20	12.05%	11	7.24%
Las Piedras	42	7.88%	35	7.35%	50	9.60%	46	8.30%	40	7.08%	60	11.34%
Loíza	75	12.02%	67	12.38%	78	12.94%	75	13.18%	58	11.55%	72	13.46%
Luquillo	35	9.70%	30	8.38%	29	8.24%	27	7.12%	37	10.79%	33	9.12%
Manatí	76	9.19%	68	8.77%	58	7.28%	76	9.84%	64	7.76%	65	7.91%
Maricao	20	13.89%	14	14.14%	22	18.49%	14	12.07%	12	11.65%	13	11.30%
Maunabo	20	8.47%	16	6.99%	18	8.07%	18	7.50%	17	7.14%	19	8.48%
Mayagüez	173	10.55%	157	10.10%	171	10.93%	178	11.24%	191	11.97%	178	11.23%
Moca	47	8.20%	39	7.29%	46	8.10%	63	10.50%	61	9.81%	72	12.02%
Morovis	46	8.03%	41	7.64%	34	6.69%	43	7.80%	55	9.73%	45	8.47%
Naguabo	43	9.89%	32	8.44%	32	7.96%	47	10.76%	50	13.19%	46	11.17%
Naranjito	68	11.62%	61	10.61%	42	7.34%	62	11.44%	45	8.21%	54	9.47%
Orocovis	39	7.69%	45	9.16%	36	8.65%	52	9.81%	45	8.86%	41	8.86%
Patillas	28	7.09%	26	6.65%	23	6.78%	26	6.74%	23	6.15%	36	10.43%
Peñuelas	56	10.92%	52	11.28%	42	8.33%	51	11.78%	46	9.31%	49	10.77%
Ponce	386	9.73%	368	9.55%	366	10.06%	349	9.52%	320	9.26%	364	10.37%
Quebradillas	30	7.67%	38	9.67%	41	10.43%	39	10.08%	41	10.62%	49	11.89%
Rincón	19	8.52%	18	9.00%	17	8.42%	21	9.09%	24	9.88%	25	9.80%
Río Grande	92	10.40%	84	10.31%	102	11.58%	75	8.90%	87	10.18%	90	9.75%
Sabana Grande	36	8.85%	40	9.90%	51	12.59%	44	10.55%	48	11.68%	53	12.68%
Salinas	60	9.68%	47	8.15%	51	8.92%	52	8.23%	62	10.21%	61	10.37%
San Germán	57	10.11%	75	12.71%	72	11.67%	76	12.44%	67	11.86%	66	11.36%
San Juan	713	9.10%	700	9.15%	716	9.32%	710	9.63%	826	11.13%	712	10.08%
San Lorenzo	53	8.82%	47	7.46%	52	8.70%	54	8.42%	58	8.96%	67	10.84%
San Sebastián	62	9.73%	48	7.64%	41	7.04%	43	7.30%	65	10.19%	67	10.06%
Santa Isabel	49	11.21%	41	10.05%	29	6.17%	37	8.94%	43	10.72%	50	10.75%
Toa Alta	72	8.15%	83	9.44%	80	9.36%	69	7.64%	84	9.04%	94	9.49%
Toa Baja	133	8.56%	120	7.73%	131	8.52%	141	8.68%	136	8.89%	143	9.71%
Trujillo Alto	101	9.65%	102	9.76%	100	8.83%	104	8.78%	102	8.93%	110	9.73%
Utuado	65	10.19%	46	7.84%	62	11.03%	79	12.23%	76	12.88%	62	11.03%
Vega Alta	65	10.02%	56	8.72%	65	10.55%	51	8.32%	54	8.41%	59	9.13%
Vega Baja	102	8.97%	111	9.82%	101	8.93%	106	9.75%	108	9.24%	93	8.21%
Vieques	18	8.82%	14	7.69%	10	5.92%	23	13.69%	19	10.98%	23	16.67%
Villalba	55	9.95%	63	11.71%	48	8.68%	51	9.79%	47	8.44%	56	10.14%
Yabucoa	61	9.55%	58	9.67%	58	8.87%	55	8.62%	51	7.11%	82	12.20%
Yauco	65	7.84%	74	9.91%	72	9.60%	80	10.50%	70	8.92%	72	9.99%

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Source: Mothers, Children, and Adolescents Division, Department of Health, Puerto Rico, March 2004.



Figure 13: Number and Percent of Low Birth Weight Babies in Puerto Rico, by Mother's Place of Residence, 1990 to 2000 (Cont.)

Mother's Place of Residence	1996		1997		1998		1999		2000	
	Number	Percent								
Juncos	57	11.13%	74	12.74%	63	10.96%	67	11.61%	69	11.40%
Lajas	42	11.02%	49	11.72%	49	12.66%	42	11.29%	40	10.53%
Lares	83	15.04%	69	12.41%	91	18.31%	66	12.69%	74	14.31%
Las Marías	18	10.98%	23	13.07%	17	10.83%	13	9.35%	14	9.40%
Las Piedras	44	8.29%	42	7.58%	48	8.99%	43	8.13%	69	12.08%
Loíza	66	14.07%	64	13.25%	73	16.11%	56	13.76%	80	17.35%
Luquillo	37	10.72%	45	12.53%	26	7.81%	46	13.65%	30	10.10%
Manatí	85	10.49%	71	8.89%	64	8.24%	77	9.31%	75	9.62%
Maricao	19	14.62%	23	18.25%	20	16.53%	25	23.36%	22	21.15%
Maunabo	23	10.80%	34	16.19%	18	10.91%	16	8.65%	18	10.84%
Mayagüez	179	11.56%	161	11.07%	152	10.23%	155	11.36%	137	10.32%
Moca	72	11.56%	81	11.81%	67	10.44%	75	11.18%	72	11.21%
Morovis	56	8.83%	77	13.10%	67	12.29%	87	14.82%	72	13.19%
Naguabo	29	8.24%	34	8.56%	33	9.12%	34	9.19%	35	9.41%
Naranjito	63	11.69%	63	11.45%	43	8.19%	51	10.30%	49	9.33%
Orocovis	58	13.68%	38	8.09%	48	11.68%	50	11.63%	42	10.77%
Patillas	26	7.20%	21	6.50%	38	10.98%	28	9.66%	37	11.71%
Peñuelas	46	10.36%	67	13.70%	48	10.91%	46	9.62%	52	10.79%
Ponce	345	10.24%	366	11.02%	324	10.68%	353	11.50%	333	11.16%
Quebradillas	31	6.92%	45	10.92%	52	12.32%	62	15.78%	55	14.47%
Rincón	27	10.59%	34	13.49%	28	14.29%	20	8.16%	21	9.72%
Río Grande	83	9.25%	103	11.60%	103	12.22%	99	11.81%	83	10.07%
Sabana Grande	51	12.56%	68	15.25%	54	12.47%	59	13.95%	43	11.68%
Salinas	68	11.62%	46	8.03%	59	10.10%	64	11.55%	54	9.98%
San Germán	80	13.94%	69	12.04%	75	14.10%	91	14.77%	58	11.22%
San Juan	729	10.43%	691	9.95%	683	10.46%	679	10.55%	667	10.32%
San Lorenzo	75	11.74%	79	11.97%	69	11.02%	75	12.02%	78	13.76%
San Sebastián	53	8.73%	88	12.41%	67	10.65%	65	10.28%	73	11.48%
Santa Isabel	51	10.81%	53	10.86%	46	10.93%	62	13.75%	49	11.11%
Toa Alta	92	9.26%	112	9.84%	108	9.99%	92	8.77%	114	10.89%
Toa Baja	149	9.97%	174	10.93%	173	11.83%	178	12.01%	189	12.13%
Trujillo Alto	124	10.87%	107	9.03%	107	9.55%	121	10.40%	109	9.75%
Utuado	46	7.76%	45	8.11%	74	13.81%	70	14.71%	80	16.36%
Vega Alta	68	11.18%	56	8.68%	53	9.38%	77	12.11%	63	10.47%
Vega Baja	106	9.23%	110	9.57%	105	9.38%	131	12.20%	99	9.35%
Vieques	22	12.02%	26	15.76%	6	4.62%	19	12.93%	20	15.63%
Villalba	52	9.32%	60	10.36%	56	11.45%	62	11.42%	56	11.38%
Yabucoa	59	9.38%	57	8.80%	60	9.49%	71	11.95%	52	8.48%
Yauco	65	9.31%	90	11.61%	81	11.08%	78	11.61%	91	12.98%

Source: Mothers, Children, and Adolescents Division, Department of Health, Puerto Rico, March 2004.

In 2000, 575 babies born in Puerto Rico died before reaching their first birthday. The municipality with the lowest infant mortality rate was Camuy (1.93), while Yauco had the highest rate of infant deaths (32.76) that year.

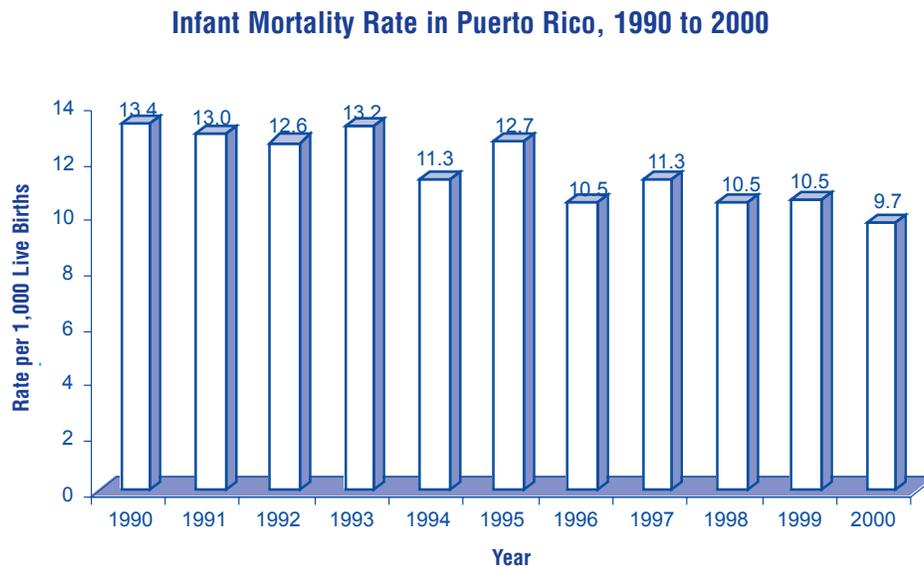


Infant Mortality

The infant mortality rate in Puerto Rico decreased from 1990 to 1994, increased slightly and then fluctuated between 1995 and 1997, and since 1998 has shown a decreasing trend. Specific data highlights

show that there was a peak of 13.4 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990, and a slight decrease from 10.5 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1999 to 9.7 deaths per 1,000 live births in 2000, as shown in Figure 14.

Figure 14



Source: NCLR analysis of data from the Mothers, Children, and Adolescents Division, Department of Health, Puerto Rico, March 2004.



**Infant Mortality Rate in Puerto Rico,
by Mother's Place of Residence, 1990 to 2000**

Mother's Place of Residence	1990			1991			1992			1993			1994			1995		
	Number	Number of Live Births	Rate	Number	Number of Live Births	Rate	Number	Number of Live Births	Rate	Number	Number of Live Births	Rate	Number	Number of Live Births	Rate	Number	Number of Live Births	Rate
Puerto Rico	886	66,386	13.35	834	64,336	12.96	813	64,312	12.64	860	65,102	13.21	726	64,183	11.31	803	63,419	12.66
Adjuntas	7	423	16.55	2	355	5.63	4	373	10.72	5	376	13.30	5	360	13.89	4	361	11.08
Aguada	9	681	13.22	3	592	5.07	9	657	13.70	2	609	3.28	7	641	10.92	6	665	9.02
Aguadilla	13	953	13.64	15	964	15.56	9	975	9.23	19	1,060	17.92	7	1,012	6.92	9	1,002	8.98
Aguas Buenas	1	441	2.27	2	472	4.24	11	461	23.86	4	450	8.89	3	464	6.47	1	456	2.19
Aibonito	6	537	11.17	11	485	22.68	9	457	19.69	5	505	9.90	0	472	0.00	6	453	13.25
Añasco	6	434	13.82	7	407	17.20	6	442	13.57	5	476	10.50	4	432	9.26	1	465	2.15
Arecibo	20	1,686	11.86	22	1,651	13.33	21	1,555	13.50	25	1,618	15.45	13	1,583	8.21	17	1,623	10.47
Arroyo	8	366	21.86	3	350	8.57	6	367	16.35	7	372	18.82	7	363	19.28	4	348	11.49
Barceloneta	1	389	2.57	6	387	15.50	2	390	5.13	0	397	0.00	4	408	9.80	9	410	21.95
Barranquitas	3	652	4.60	6	592	10.14	7	592	11.82	14	607	23.06	8	576	13.89	5	586	8.53
Bayamón	47	4,021	11.69	47	3,978	11.81	50	3,853	12.98	35	3,745	9.35	45	3,738	12.04	46	3,579	12.85
Cabo Rojo	4	583	6.86	2	599	3.34	3	607	4.94	5	657	7.61	8	623	12.84	8	635	12.60
Caguas	31	2,477	12.52	33	2,449	13.47	34	2,470	13.77	38	2,602	14.60	24	2,560	9.38	35	2,401	14.58
Camuy	3	546	5.49	7	557	12.57	6	552	10.87	7	590	11.86	10	548	18.25	9	563	15.99
Canóvanas	8	813	9.84	16	880	18.18	13	883	14.72	12	953	12.59	6	822	7.30	6	840	7.14
Carolina	46	2,994	15.36	32	2,935	10.90	53	2,914	18.19	42	3,029	13.87	29	2,954	9.82	34	2,989	11.38
Cataño	4	769	5.20	11	704	15.63	13	651	19.97	11	611	18.00	12	671	17.88	11	587	18.74
Cayey	11	891	12.35	14	877	15.96	8	828	9.66	19	870	21.84	12	817	14.69	9	788	11.42
Ceiba	7	365	19.18	6	355	16.90	4	349	11.46	4	384	10.42	6	347	17.29	2	323	6.19
Ciales	1	395	2.53	3	360	8.33	5	370	13.51	4	378	10.58	1	333	3.00	6	360	16.67
Cidra	9	650	13.85	4	643	6.22	3	640	4.69	5	627	7.97	9	639	14.08	6	653	9.19
Coamo	14	704	19.89	8	688	11.63	11	675	16.30	11	620	17.74	6	679	8.84	15	612	24.51
Comerio	2	433	4.62	4	390	10.26	6	377	15.92	4	356	11.24	5	374	13.37	8	366	21.86
Corozal	13	726	17.91	7	682	10.26	6	644	9.32	7	654	10.70	5	635	7.87	11	658	16.72
Culebra	0	29	0.00	0	29	0.00	0	45	0.00	0	34	0.00	0	38	0.00	1	22	45.45
Dorado	7	580	12.07	8	573	13.96	6	535	11.21	3	544	5.51	3	550	5.45	7	562	12.46
Fajardo	10	747	13.39	13	724	17.96	13	741	17.54	9	722	12.47	9	745	12.08	11	737	14.93
Florida	1	190	5.26	2	189	10.58	3	185	16.22	1	201	4.98	2	206	9.71	8	190	42.11
Guánica	5	331	15.11	6	336	17.86	4	367	10.90	5	395	12.66	7	387	18.09	6	331	18.13
Guayama	14	882	15.87	14	806	17.37	13	839	15.49	7	786	8.91	22	770	28.57	11	814	13.51
Guayanilla	4	422	9.48	4	380	10.53	3	381	7.87	8	397	20.15	4	372	10.75	2	393	5.09
Guaynabo	18	1,690	10.65	25	1,626	15.38	19	1,644	11.56	18	1,723	10.45	13	1,599	8.13	20	1,678	11.92
Gurabo	7	540	12.96	3	507	5.92	7	569	12.30	7	583	12.01	4	550	7.27	7	584	11.99
Hatillo	4	547	7.31	7	569	12.30	10	573	17.45	10	565	17.70	3	551	5.44	6	557	10.77
Hormigueros	2	178	11.24	1	211	4.74	3	210	14.29	2	202	9.90	2	256	7.81	4	204	19.61
Humacao	16	1,057	15.14	9	1,070	8.41	13	1,040	12.50	10	1,044	9.58	10	1,031	9.70	10	988	10.12
Isabela	8	708	11.30	7	675	10.37	9	683	13.18	7	668	10.48	11	636	17.30	11	674	16.32
Jayuya	3	339	8.85	3	345	8.70	7	323	21.67	7	339	20.65	7	336	20.83	8	313	25.56
Juana Díaz	24	921	26.06	14	895	15.64	11	928	11.85	13	953	13.64	8	902	8.87	12	938	12.79

Continued on next page

Source: NCLR analysis of data from the Mothers, Children, and Adolescents Division, Department of Health, Puerto Rico, March 2004.



Figure 15: Infant Mortality Rate in Puerto Rico, by Mother's Place of Residence, 1990 to 2000 (Cont.)

Mother's Place of Residence	1996			1997			1998			1999			2000		
	Number	Number of Live Births	Rate	Number	Number of Live Births	Rate	Number	Number of Live Births	Rate	Number	Number of Live Births	Rate	Number	Number of Live Births	Rate
Puerto Rico	660	63,141	10.45	724	64,102	11.29	634	60,406	10.50	628	59,563	10.54	575	59,332	9.69
Adjuntas	5	327	15.29	4	379	10.55	4	306	13.07	3	300	10.00	3	307	9.77
Aguada	6	653	9.19	6	679	8.84	6	607	9.88	5	624	8.01	4	600	6.67
Aguadilla	7	923	7.58	11	1,020	10.78	8	892	8.97	7	902	7.76	11	888	12.39
Aguas Buenas	2	472	4.24	3	492	6.10	7	469	14.93	7	493	14.20	7	465	15.05
Aibonito	3	442	6.79	6	488	12.30	6	477	12.58	3	386	7.77	3	434	6.91
Añasco	1	459	2.18	5	450	11.11	2	437	4.58	6	424	14.15	8	408	19.61
Arecibo	11	1,620	6.79	14	1,578	8.87	16	1,549	10.33	16	1,454	11.00	10	1,470	6.80
Arroyo	1	350	2.86	1	353	2.83	3	310	9.68	8	286	27.97	6	299	20.07
Barceloneta	3	445	6.74	5	405	12.35	4	367	10.90	5	357	14.01	2	400	5.00
Barranquitas	8	643	12.44	11	600	18.33	6	528	11.36	1	470	2.13	9	455	19.78
Bayamón	48	3,783	12.69	39	3,773	10.34	44	3,493	12.60	38	3,574	10.63	31	3,460	8.96
Cabo Rojo	11	670	16.42	8	664	12.05	8	654	12.23	7	673	10.40	12	669	17.94
Caguas	25	2,403	10.40	23	2,432	9.46	25	2,261	11.06	26	2,262	11.49	29	2,276	12.74
Camuy	3	588	5.10	4	540	7.41	3	561	5.35	6	537	11.17	1	518	1.93
Canóvanas	5	853	5.86	15	861	17.42	8	826	9.69	7	823	8.51	6	782	7.67
Carolina	20	2,925	6.84	37	2,920	12.67	20	2,714	7.37	20	2,729	7.33	13	2,891	4.50
Cataño	7	548	12.77	12	590	20.34	7	516	13.57	9	513	17.54	4	514	7.78
Cayey	6	837	7.17	13	837	15.53	5	806	6.20	11	739	14.88	4	745	5.37
Ceiba	3	311	9.65	4	304	13.16	3	305	9.84	3	278	10.79	1	293	3.41
Ciales	4	356	11.24	6	367	16.35	5	323	15.48	7	361	19.39	3	335	8.96
Cidra	9	632	14.24	4	650	6.15	12	664	18.07	7	611	11.46	8	619	12.92
Coamo	7	636	11.01	16	708	22.60	9	658	13.68	10	669	14.95	5	607	8.24
Comerio	3	360	8.33	5	349	14.33	3	342	8.77	3	258	11.63	2	330	6.06
Corozal	8	663	12.07	9	638	14.11	1	654	1.53	6	546	10.99	5	597	8.38
Culebra	0	33	0.00	0	36	0.00	0	26	0.00	0	16	0.00		25	0.00
Dorado	6	510	11.76	4	527	7.59	5	572	8.74	2	593	3.37	2	647	3.09
Fajardo	12	736	16.30	6	712	8.43	6	718	8.36	5	690	7.25	5	655	7.63
Florida	1	184	5.43	3	208	14.42	2	200	10.00	1	200	5.00	1	196	5.10
Guánica	5	325	15.38	7	374	18.72	9	354	25.42	5	330	15.15	4	299	13.38
Guayama	7	841	8.32	5	819	6.11	4	781	5.12	3	762	3.94	8	751	10.65
Guayanilla	5	365	13.70	3	401	7.48	9	405	22.22	6	357	16.81	4	345	11.59
Guaynabo	21	1,637	12.83	18	1,586	11.35	11	1,589	6.92	11	1,471	7.48	16	1,469	10.89
Gurabo	9	558	16.13	6	564	10.64	10	583	17.15	10	574	17.42	4	560	7.14
Hatillo	2	586	3.41	4	586	6.83	7	569	12.30	6	547	10.97	4	527	7.59
Hormigueros	2	211	9.48	1	208	4.81	3	216	13.89	1	213	4.69	2	240	8.33
Humacao	13	1,031	12.61	14	1,088	12.87	6	944	6.36	4	935	4.28	9	1,048	8.59
Isabela	7	663	10.56	11	680	16.18	6	609	9.85	4	619	6.46	9	683	13.18
Jayuya	5	311	16.08	5	323	15.48	3	333	9.01	5	306	16.34	2	278	7.19
Juana Díaz	11	923	11.92	15	985	15.23	5	904	5.53	12	867	13.84	8	852	9.39



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Source: NCLR analysis of data from the Mothers, Children, and Adolescents Division, Department of Health, Puerto Rico, March 2004.

Figure 15: Infant Mortality Rate in Puerto Rico, by Mother's Place of Residence, 1990 to 2000 (Cont.)

Mother's Place of Residence	1990			1991			1992			1993			1994			1995		
	Number	Number of Live Births	Rate	Number	Number of Live Births	Rate	Number	Number of Live Births	Rate	Number	Number of Live Births	Rate	Number	Number of Live Births	Rate	Number	Number of Live Births	Rate
Juncos	9	539	16.70	5	535	9.35	4	576	6.94	6	579	10.36	5	565	8.85	14	578	24.22
Lajas	5	364	13.74	2	367	5.45	9	377	23.87	6	440	13.64	5	427	11.71	9	342	26.32
Lares	12	576	20.83	7	536	13.06	6	557	10.77	5	564	8.87	5	511	9.78	6	568	10.56
Las Marías	1	163	6.13	4	145	27.59	0	149	0.00	4	175	22.86	4	166	24.10	0	152	0.00
Las Piedras	8	533	15.01	5	476	10.50	7	522	13.41	3	554	5.42	9	565	15.93	8	529	15.12
Loíza	16	625	25.60	11	541	20.33	8	607	13.18	18	569	31.63	7	502	13.94	12	535	22.43
Luquillo	5	361	13.85	2	358	5.59	4	352	11.36	6	379	15.83	5	343	14.58	7	362	19.34
Manatí	10	827	12.09	4	775	5.16	13	797	16.31	9	772	11.66	8	825	9.70	8	823	9.72
Maricao	1	144	6.94	2	99	20.20	3	119	25.21	2	116	17.24	1	103	9.71	2	115	17.39
Maunabo	2	237	8.44	4	229	17.47	2	223	8.97	2	240	8.33	3	239	12.55	6	224	26.79
Mayagüez	19	1,641	11.58	16	1,554	10.30	23	1,565	14.70	20	1,583	12.63	20	1,596	12.53	18	1,585	11.36
Moca	4	573	6.98	7	535	13.08	5	568	8.80	4	600	6.67	5	622	8.04	7	599	11.69
Morovis	6	573	10.47	8	537	14.90	7	509	13.75	7	551	12.70	3	565	5.31	8	531	15.07
Naguabo	5	436	11.47	5	380	13.16	3	403	7.44	13	437	29.75	7	380	18.42	2	412	4.85
Naranjito	2	585	3.42	6	575	10.43	7	572	12.24	10	542	18.45	2	548	3.65	9	570	15.79
Orocovis	4	507	7.89	8	491	16.29	4	416	9.62	9	530	16.98	9	508	17.72	9	463	19.44
Patillas	5	395	12.66	5	391	12.79	4	339	11.80	8	386	20.73	7	374	18.72	4	345	11.59
Peñuelas	11	514	21.40	14	461	30.37	4	504	7.94	8	433	18.48	5	495	10.10	8	456	17.54
Ponce	64	3,967	16.13	54	3,855	14.01	47	3,639	12.92	48	3,667	13.09	36	3,455	10.42	45	3,509	12.82
Quebradillas	5	391	12.79	5	393	12.72	4	393	10.18	2	387	5.17	2	386	5.18	6	412	14.56
Rincón	2	223	8.97	1	200	5.00	1	202	4.95	2	232	8.62	2	243	8.23	1	255	3.92
Río Grande	22	885	24.86	10	816	12.25	11	881	12.49	11	843	13.05	11	855	12.87	13	925	14.05
Sabana Grande	5	407	12.29	5	404	12.38	7	405	17.28	2	417	4.80	6	411	14.60	6	418	14.35
Salinas	15	621	24.15	6	577	10.40	10	572	17.48	10	632	15.82	13	607	21.42	12	588	20.41
San Germán	6	564	10.64	9	590	15.25	2	617	3.24	11	611	18.00	7	565	12.39	8	581	13.77
San Juan	102	7,837	13.02	106	7,655	13.85	89	7,690	11.57	97	7,369	13.16	98	7,425	13.20	76	7,068	10.75
San Lorenzo	8	601	13.31	4	630	6.35	9	599	15.03	9	642	14.02	4	647	6.18	6	618	9.71
San Sebastián	16	637	25.12	8	629	12.72	6	582	10.31	7	589	11.88	10	638	15.67	9	666	13.51
Santa Isabel	13	437	29.75	8	408	19.61	5	471	10.62	4	414	9.66	4	401	9.98	8	465	17.20
Toa Alta	11	883	12.46	14	879	15.93	13	855	15.20	7	903	7.75	14	929	15.07	12	990	12.12
Toa Baja	22	1,553	14.17	20	1,554	12.87	16	1,537	10.41	23	1,624	14.16	12	1,531	7.84	13	1,472	8.83
Trujillo Alto	12	1,047	11.46	20	1,046	19.12	6	1,133	5.30	14	1,184	11.82	8	1,143	7.00	11	1,131	9.73
Utua	6	638	9.40	5	587	8.52	4	562	7.12	6	646	9.29	2	590	3.39	4	562	7.12
Vega Alta	6	649	9.24	9	642	14.02	10	616	16.23	8	613	13.05	5	642	7.79	10	646	15.48
Vega Baja	20	1,137	17.59	15	1,132	13.25	14	1,131	12.38	20	1,088	18.38	10	1,169	8.55	7	1,133	6.18
Vieques	5	204	24.51	3	182	16.48	2	169	11.83	4	168	23.81	4	173	23.12	1	138	7.25
Villalba	7	554	12.64	6	538	11.15	6	553	10.85	10	521	19.19	10	557	17.95	6	552	10.87
Yabucoa	5	639	7.82	11	600	18.33	11	655	16.79	8	638	12.54	9	717	12.55	5	672	7.44
Yauco	12	829	14.48	13	747	17.40	7	750	9.33	20	762	26.25	8	785	10.19	15	721	20.80

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Source: NCLR analysis of data from the Mothers, Children, and Adolescents Division, Department of Health, Puerto Rico, March 2004.



**Figure 15: Infant Mortality Rate in Puerto Rico,
by Mother's Place of Residence, 1990 to 2000 (Cont.)**

Mother's Place of Residence	1996			1997			1998			1999			2000		
	Number	Number of Live Births	Rate	Number	Number of Live Births	Rate	Number	Number of Live Births	Rate	Number	Number of Live Births	Rate	Number	Number of Live Births	Rate
Juncos	1	513	1.95	12	582	20.62	3	575	5.22	8	577	13.86	7	605	11.57
Lajas	6	381	15.75	0	418	0.00	6	387	15.50	5	372	13.44	6	380	15.79
Lares	8	552	14.49	5	556	8.99	8	497	16.10	5	520	9.62	6	518	11.58
Las Marías	3	164	18.29	6	176	34.09		157	0.00		139	0.00	1	149	6.71
Las Piedras	5	531	9.42	5	554	9.03	4	534	7.49	6	529	11.34	3	571	5.25
Loíza	6	469	12.79	10	484	20.66	10	453	22.08	6	407	14.74	6	461	13.02
Luquillo	0	345	0.00	8	359	22.28	6	333	18.02	3	337	8.90	2	297	6.73
Manatí	11	810	13.58	9	800	11.25	5	777	6.44	9	827	10.88	4	780	5.13
Maricao	1	131	7.63	3	126	23.81	0	121	0.00	1	107	9.35		104	0.00
Maunabo	3	213	14.08	7	210	33.33	3	165	18.18	2	185	10.81	1	166	6.02
Mayagüez	23	1,548	14.86	11	1,455	7.56	19	1,486	12.79	13	1,366	9.52	13	1,328	9.79
Moca	5	624	8.01	14	686	20.41	8	642	12.46	5	672	7.44	9	644	13.98
Morovis	4	634	6.31	4	589	6.79	2	545	3.67	3	587	5.11	7	546	12.82
Naguabo	3	352	8.52	6	397	15.11	7	362	19.34	3	370	8.11	8	372	21.51
Naranjito	5	539	9.28	5	550	9.09	5	525	9.52	8	495	16.16	0	525	0.00
Orocovis	11	424	25.94	4	470	8.51	4	411	9.73	2	430	4.65	5	390	12.82
Patillas	1	361	2.77	1	323	3.10	5	346	14.45	4	292	13.70	4	316	12.66
Peñuelas	7	444	15.77	9	489	18.40	5	440	11.36	5	478	10.46	9	482	18.67
Ponce	45	3,369	13.36	35	3,323	10.53	40	3,034	13.18	32	3,069	10.43	26	2,985	8.71
Quebradillas	4	448	8.93	5	412	12.14	2	422	4.74	0	393	0.00	6	380	15.79
Rincón	1	255	3.92	1	252	3.97	2	196	10.20	1	245	4.08	4	216	18.52
Río Grande	7	897	7.80	8	888	9.01	8	843	9.49	9	838	10.74	7	825	8.48
Sabana Grande	3	406	7.39	4	446	8.97	3	433	6.93	4	423	9.46	6	369	16.26
Salinas	6	585	10.26	6	573	10.47	2	584	3.42	11	554	19.86	3	541	5.55
San Germán	8	574	13.94	4	573	6.98	6	532	11.28	11	616	17.86	5	518	9.65
San Juan	79	6,994	11.30	71	6,947	10.22	77	6,537	11.78	80	6,440	12.42	61	6,385	9.55
San Lorenzo	10	639	15.65	7	660	10.61	7	626	11.18	8	624	12.82	7	567	12.35
San Sebastián	3	607	4.94	6	709	8.46	4	629	6.36	6	632	9.49	9	636	14.15
Santa Isabel	5	472	10.59	11	488	22.54	5	421	11.88	5	451	11.09	4	441	9.07
Toa Alta	8	993	8.06	5	1,139	4.39	6	1,081	5.55	6	1,049	5.72	5	1,049	4.77
Toa Baja	10	1,495	6.69	20	1,592	12.56	17	1,466	11.60	16	1,484	10.78	14	1,560	8.97
Trujillo Alto	11	1,141	9.64	8	1,185	6.75	10	1,121	8.92	8	1,164	6.87	9	1,120	8.04
Utuado	1	593	1.69	7	555	12.61	3	536	5.60	9	476	18.91	5	490	10.20
Vega Alta	8	608	13.16	3	645	4.65	3	565	5.31	7	636	11.01	6	602	9.97
Vega Baja	8	1,149	6.96	7	1,150	6.09	15	1,119	13.40	11	1,074	10.24	10	1,059	9.44
Vieques	0	183	0.00	2	165	12.12	0	130	0.00	0	147	0.00	2	128	15.63
Villalba	5	558	8.96	11	579	19.00	4	489	8.18	8	543	14.73	3	493	6.09
Yabucoa	14	629	22.26	7	648	10.80	9	633	14.22	5	594	8.42	4	613	6.53
Yauco	9	698	12.89	14	775	18.06	10	731	13.68	7	672	10.42	23	702	32.76



Source: NCLR analysis of data from the Mothers, Children, and Adolescents Division, Department of Health, Puerto Rico, March 2004.

Child Neglect/Abuse and Foster Care

A number of social and economic factors have placed many children at risk, not only for poor educational, social, and health outcomes, but also for abuse and neglect. While data on child abuse, neglect, and foster care have not always been systematically collected for Puerto Rico, data from the Puerto Rico Department of the Family indicate the following:

- The Commonwealth had a total of 71,903 active child abuse and neglect cases at the close of fiscal year 2003.
- At the end of 2002, there were approximately 9,555 children in foster care in Puerto Rico.

Source: Administration of Families and Children and Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning, Department of the Family, Puerto Rico, March 2004.



Child Mortality

The child death rate (deaths per 100,000 children aged 1-14 years) in Puerto Rico has fallen in the decade between 1990 and 2000, from 30.1 per 100,000 (which represented 266 deaths) to 21.4 per 100,000 (which represented 179 deaths), as shown in Figure 16.

In 2000, 179 children between the ages of one and 14 died (out of a total population of 837,479 children one to 14 years). The

municipality with the largest number of child deaths was San Juan (15), followed by Bayamón and Ponce (13 each). In 2000, no child deaths were reported in 22 municipalities: Adjuntas, Arroyo, Cabo Rojo, Camuy, Cataño, Ceiba, Culebra, Florida, Guayanilla, Maricao, Maunabo, Morovis, Naranjito, Orocovis, Patillas, Peñuelas, Quebradillas, Rincón, Sábana Grande, San Lorenzo, San Sebastián, and Vieques.

Figure 16

Child Mortality Rate in Puerto Rico, 1990 to 2000



Source: NCLR analysis of data from the Mothers, Children, and Adolescents Division, Department of Health, Puerto Rico, March 2004.



Child Mortality Rate in Puerto Rico, by Place of Residence, 1900 to 2000

Place of Residence	1990			1991			1992			1993			1994			1995		
	Number	Population 1 to 14 Years	Rate	Number	Population 1 to 14 Years	Rate	Number	Population 1 to 14 Years	Rate	Number	Population 1 to 14 Years	Rate	Number	Population 1 to 14 Years	Rate	Number	Population 1 to 14 Years	Rate
Puerto Rico	266	884,682	30.07	251	879,398	28.54	258	874,252	29.51	244	869,226	28.07	227	864,320	26.26	248	859,549	28.85
Adjuntas	1	5,682	17.60	1	5,570	17.95	3	5,459	54.96	2	5,351	37.38	0	5,246	-	1	5,142	19.45
Aguada	2	10,106	19.79	1	10,061	9.94	4	10,015	39.94	5	9,969	50.15	1	9,924	10.08	1	9,881	10.12
Aguadilla	1	14,633	6.83	2	14,509	13.78	5	14,387	34.75	2	14,266	14.02	4	14,148	28.27	1	14,031	7.13
Aguas Buenas	3	6,967	43.06	2	6,921	28.90	0	6,875	-	2	6,829	29.29	2	6,785	29.48	2	6,741	29.67
Aibonito	3	6,847	43.82	0	6,783	-	3	6,719	44.65	2	6,659	30.04	2	6,599	30.31	1	6,539	15.29
Añasco	1	6,552	15.26	2	6,522	30.67	5	6,494	76.99	0	6,466	-	4	6,438	62.14	1	6,411	15.60
Arecibo	6	21,181	28.33	6	21,132	28.39	8	21,086	37.94	1	21,041	4.75	4	20,996	19.05	8	20,954	38.18
Arroyo	2	5,520	36.23	1	5,421	18.45	1	5,324	18.78	2	5,229	38.25	3	5,135	58.42	1	5,044	19.82
Barceloneta	0	5,147	-	2	5,150	38.83	2	5,155	38.80	0	5,159	-	3	5,164	58.09	1	5,171	19.34
Barranquitas	2	7,797	25.65	6	7,800	76.93	3	7,802	38.45	5	7,806	64.05	2	7,811	25.61	3	7,814	38.39
Bayamón	7	51,269	13.65	18	50,794	35.44	11	50,323	21.86	11	49,859	22.06	19	49,398	38.46	17	48,943	34.73
Cabo Rojo	1	8,396	11.91	7	8,495	82.40	1	8,598	11.63	1	8,702	11.49	3	8,807	34.06	2	8,915	22.43
Caguas	7	32,849	21.31	9	32,596	27.61	9	32,347	27.82	7	32,098	21.81	6	31,854	18.84	7	31,610	22.14
Camuy	0	7,655	-	4	7,701	51.94	0	7,750	-	3	7,798	38.47	1	7,848	12.74	0	7,900	-
Canóvanas	4	9,611	41.62	2	9,728	20.56	3	9,849	30.46	9	9,971	90.27	5	10,094	49.54	0	10,221	-
Carolina	13	41,572	31.27	11	41,208	26.69	10	40,849	24.48	12	40,499	29.63	8	40,152	19.92	13	39,812	32.65
Cataño	2	9,798	20.41	2	9,526	20.99	1	9,263	10.80	1	9,006	11.10	0	8,758	-	0	8,516	-
Cayey	2	11,830	16.91	0	11,681	-	4	11,534	34.68	2	11,387	17.56	1	11,245	8.89	2	11,103	18.01
Ceiba	0	4,268	-	1	4,263	23.46	2	4,259	46.96	0	4,254	-	1	4,250	23.53	2	4,244	47.12
Ciales	2	5,361	37.31	1	5,336	18.74	1	5,312	18.83	2	5,288	37.82	1	5,264	19.00	0	5,241	-
Cidra	2	10,129	19.75	2	10,120	19.76	1	10,111	9.89	3	10,103	29.69	3	10,095	29.72	5	10,087	49.57
Coamo	4	9,378	42.65	1	9,379	10.66	2	9,382	21.32	1	9,384	10.66	2	9,386	21.31	1	9,387	10.65
Comerio	0	5,914	-	0	5,794	-	2	5,676	35.24	2	5,562	35.96	1	5,450	18.35	1	5,340	18.73
Corozal	5	9,617	51.99	0	9,559	-	4	9,503	42.09	3	9,448	31.75	5	9,393	53.23	3	9,338	32.13
Culebra	0	372	-	0	377	-	0	382	-	0	387	-	0	392	-	0	398	-
Dorado	2	8,310	24.07	0	8,226	-	5	8,144	61.40	3	8,064	37.20	1	7,984	12.53	2	7,906	25.30
Fajardo	2	8,768	22.81	4	8,829	45.30	2	8,890	22.50	2	8,955	22.33	3	9,021	33.25	5	9,087	55.02
Florida	1	2,340	42.73	2	2,402	83.28	1	2,465	40.56	2	2,530	79.06	0	2,598	-	0	2,668	-
Guánica	2	5,539	36.11	3	5,490	54.65	0	5,440	-	3	5,392	55.64	1	5,345	18.71	2	5,298	37.75
Guayama	6	11,583	51.80	2	11,456	17.46	4	11,332	35.30	2	11,209	17.84	3	11,087	27.06	2	10,969	18.23
Guayanilla	1	6,057	16.51	1	5,975	16.74	1	5,893	16.97	2	5,814	34.40	1	5,734	17.44	2	5,657	35.35
Guaynabo	4	21,790	18.36	4	21,653	18.47	4	21,516	18.59	6	21,379	28.06	7	21,246	32.95	4	21,112	18.95
Gurabo	2	7,331	27.28	0	7,442	-	2	7,556	26.47	4	7,671	52.14	3	7,788	38.52	2	7,908	25.29
Hatillo	2	8,267	24.19	2	8,330	24.01	3	8,394	35.74	2	8,458	23.65	0	8,523	-	5	8,587	58.23
Hormigueros	0	3,243	-	0	3,216	-	1	3,190	31.34	1	3,164	31.60	1	3,139	31.85	2	3,114	64.23
Humacao	9	14,530	61.94	3	14,361	20.89	1	14,195	7.04	2	14,030	14.26	6	13,868	43.26	5	13,709	36.47
Isabela	4	9,985	40.06	6	9,949	60.31	3	9,916	30.25	1	9,881	10.12	3	9,847	30.46	1	9,815	10.19
Jayuya	2	4,868	41.09	1	4,838	20.67	0	4,809	-	0	4,779	-	0	4,749	-	1	4,720	21.19
Juana Díaz	7	13,106	53.41	5	13,086	38.21	7	13,066	53.58	1	13,047	7.66	5	13,029	38.38	5	13,011	38.43

Note: Dash (-) indicates that rate is zero.

Source: Mothers, Children, and Adolescents Division, Department of Health, Puerto Rico, March 2004.

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Figure 17: Child Mortality Rate in Puerto Rico, by Place of Residence, 1900 to 2000 (Cont.)

Place of Residence	1996			1997			1998			1999			2000		
	Number	Population 1 to 14 Years	Rate	Number	Population 1 to 14 Years	Rate	Number	Population 1 to 14 Years	Rate	Number	Population 1 to 14 Years	Rate	Number	Population 1 to 14 Years	Rate
Puerto Rico	234	854,896	27.37	222	850,355	26.11	197	845,944	23.29	203	841,660	24.12	179	837,479	21.37
Adjuntas	1	5,041	19.84	4	4,942	80.93	2	4,845	41.28	0	4,749	-	0	4,657	-
Aguada	1	9,837	10.17	4	9,793	40.85	1	9,751	10.26	2	9,707	20.60	1	9,666	10.35
Aguadilla	3	13,915	21.56	4	13,801	28.98	1	13,688	7.31	4	13,578	29.46	4	13,467	29.70
Aguas Buenas	4	6,696	59.74	0	6,654	-	0	6,611	-	1	6,569	15.22	1	6,527	15.32
Aibonito	2	6,480	30.86	2	6,422	31.14	1	6,368	15.70	2	6,312	31.69	2	6,258	31.96
Añasco	1	6,383	15.67	0	6,356	-	1	6,328	15.80	2	6,303	31.73	2	6,275	31.87
Arecibo	2	20,913	9.56	8	20,872	38.33	2	20,832	9.60	4	20,794	19.24	5	20,758	24.09
Arroyo	2	4,954	40.37	3	4,864	61.68	2	4,779	41.85	1	4,694	21.31	0	4,610	-
Barceloneta	1	5,177	19.32	1	5,184	19.29	1	5,191	19.26	3	5,198	57.72	1	5,207	19.21
Barranquitas	0	7,818	-	2	7,825	25.56	2	7,830	25.54	2	7,836	25.52	1	7,844	12.75
Bayamón	10	48,495	20.62	12	48,048	24.97	10	47,608	21.00	12	47,174	25.44	13	46,742	27.81
Cabo Rojo	2	9,027	22.16	3	9,139	32.83	0	9,254	-	2	9,371	21.34	0	9,491	-
Caguas	5	31,370	15.94	6	31,132	19.27	5	30,896	16.18	10	30,662	32.61	7	30,430	23.00
Camuy	3	7,952	37.73	0	8,004	-	3	8,060	37.22	1	8,117	12.32	0	8,174	-
Canóvanas	1	10,350	9.66	8	10,481	76.33	3	10,614	28.26	4	10,750	37.21	2	10,888	18.37
Carolina	11	39,477	27.86	8	39,148	20.44	10	38,824	25.76	3	38,506	7.79	8	38,192	20.95
Cataño	4	8,282	48.30	1	8,055	12.42	0	7,835	-	1	7,621	13.12	0	7,413	-
Cayey	7	10,964	63.85	5	10,826	46.18	3	10,692	28.06	1	10,557	9.47	2	10,425	19.19
Ceiba	0	4,240	-	1	4,236	23.61	1	4,233	23.63	2	4,228	47.31	0	4,224	-
Ciales	1	5,218	19.16	1	5,195	19.25	2	5,173	38.66	1	5,151	19.42	1	5,127	19.50
Cidra	0	10,079	-	5	10,071	49.65	4	10,063	39.75	1	10,054	9.95	2	10,047	19.91
Coamo	4	9,389	42.60	5	9,392	53.24	1	9,394	10.65	4	9,395	42.57	2	9,398	21.28
Comerio	0	5,233	-	1	5,129	19.50	2	5,025	39.80	1	4,925	20.30	2	4,828	41.42
Corozal	2	9,282	21.55	3	9,229	32.51	3	9,176	32.69	3	9,123	32.88	2	9,072	22.05
Culebra	0	402	-	0	408	-	0	414	-	0	420	-	0	426	-
Dorado	2	7,828	25.55	1	7,753	12.90	3	7,678	39.07	1	7,606	13.15	2	7,533	26.55
Fajardo	0	9,156	-	1	9,225	10.84	2	9,297	21.51	4	9,371	42.68	2	9,446	21.17
Florida	2	2,738	73.05	0	2,811	-	0	2,887	-	3	2,964	101.23	0	3,044	-
Guánica	2	5,253	38.07	3	5,207	57.62	1	5,163	19.37	4	5,120	78.13	2	5,077	39.40
Guayama	9	10,851	82.94	2	10,733	18.63	3	10,618	28.25	5	10,504	47.60	2	10,391	19.25
Guayanilla	4	5,581	71.67	0	5,505	-	1	5,430	18.42	2	5,358	37.32	0	5,285	-
Guaynabo	2	20,979	9.53	11	20,847	52.76	4	20,717	19.31	5	20,587	24.29	3	20,458	14.66
Gurabo	3	8,028	37.37	2	8,152	24.53	3	8,278	36.24	3	8,406	35.69	2	8,537	23.43
Hatillo	2	8,654	23.11	1	8,720	11.47	5	8,787	56.90	2	8,854	22.59	2	8,922	22.42
Hormigueros	0	3,091	-	0	3,068	-	1	3,044	32.85	0	3,022	-	1	3,001	33.33
Humacao	3	13,552	22.14	3	13,397	22.39	0	13,244	-	2	13,092	15.28	4	12,945	30.90
Isabela	3	9,782	30.67	3	9,749	30.77	3	9,717	30.87	0	9,686	-	2	9,654	20.72
Jayuya	1	4,692	21.31	0	4,663	-	2	4,634	43.16	1	4,606	21.71	1	4,578	21.84
Juana Díaz	3	12,994	23.09	3	12,975	23.12	1	12,959	7.72	2	12,943	15.45	6	12,927	46.41



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Note: Dash (-) indicates that rate is zero.

Source: Mothers, Children, and Adolescents Division, Department of Health, Puerto Rico, March 2004.

Figure 17: Child Mortality Rate in Puerto Rico, by Place of Residence, 1900 to 2000 (Cont.)

Place of Residence	1990			1991			1992			1993			1994			1995		
	Number	Population 1 to 14 Years	Rate	Number	Population 1 to 14 Years	Rate	Number	Population 1 to 14 Years	Rate	Number	Population 1 to 14 Years	Rate	Number	Population 1 to 14 Years	Rate	Number	Population 1 to 14 Years	Rate
Juncos	1	7,853	12.73	0	7,907	-	6	7,963	75.35	4	8,018	49.89	3	8,074	37.16	1	8,131	12.30
Lajas	2	5,654	35.37	1	5,650	17.70	1	5,647	17.71	2	5,643	35.44	0	5,641	-	1	5,638	17.74
Lares	0	8,061	-	1	8,065	12.40	2	8,069	24.79	2	8,073	24.77	0	8,077	-	2	8,081	24.75
Las Marías	0	2,618	-	1	2,614	38.25	0	2,612	-	2	2,610	76.64	0	2,606	-	0	2,604	-
Las Piedras	2	7,412	26.98	4	7,444	53.74	3	7,474	40.14	0	7,505	-	2	7,537	26.54	1	7,568	13.21
Loíza	4	9,295	43.03	4	9,258	43.20	4	9,221	43.38	2	9,184	21.78	3	9,149	32.79	5	9,113	54.86
Luquillo	0	4,616	-	1	4,605	21.71	1	4,594	21.77	1	4,583	21.82	1	4,574	21.86	1	4,563	21.91
Manatí	3	10,010	29.97	5	10,056	49.72	3	10,103	29.69	3	10,152	29.55	2	10,199	19.61	3	10,248	29.27
Maricao	0	1,883	-	0	1,846	-	1	1,811	55.22	0	1,776	-	1	1,741	57.44	1	1,708	58.54
Maunabo	0	3,349	-	0	3,315	-	1	3,281	30.47	1	3,250	30.77	0	3,217	-	0	3,184	-
Mayagüez	7	21,749	32.18	5	21,366	23.40	7	20,992	33.35	4	20,622	19.40	1	20,260	4.94	5	19,906	25.12
Moca	3	9,301	32.26	1	9,296	10.76	1	9,291	10.76	3	9,288	32.30	0	9,283	-	1	9,281	10.78
Morovis	2	7,556	26.47	1	7,612	13.14	4	7,667	52.17	1	7,724	12.95	0	7,780	-	4	7,839	51.03
Naguabo	1	5,976	16.73	2	5,908	33.85	4	5,841	68.48	2	5,774	34.64	0	5,709	-	2	5,645	35.43
Naranjito	1	7,917	12.63	2	7,849	25.48	3	7,781	38.56	4	7,714	51.85	3	7,648	39.23	1	7,581	13.19
Orocovis	3	6,280	47.77	4	6,293	63.56	3	6,306	47.57	4	6,320	63.30	2	6,333	31.58	2	6,346	31.52
Patillas	0	5,443	-	3	5,367	55.90	0	5,291	-	0	5,216	-	1	5,144	19.44	3	5,073	59.14
Peñuelas	2	7,029	28.45	4	7,041	56.81	3	7,053	42.54	1	7,065	14.15	4	7,077	56.52	1	7,090	14.10
Ponce	21	50,798	41.34	18	49,871	36.09	20	48,962	40.85	20	48,069	41.61	14	47,193	29.67	16	46,333	34.53
Quebradillas	0	5,803	-	0	5,810	-	1	5,817	17.19	1	5,824	17.17	4	5,832	68.59	1	5,836	17.13
Rincón	0	2,957	-	0	2,959	-	0	2,964	-	0	2,968	-	3	2,971	100.97	0	2,976	-
Río Grande	4	11,895	33.63	4	11,927	33.54	2	11,960	16.72	3	11,993	25.01	5	12,026	41.58	4	12,061	33.17
Sabana Grande	4	5,694	70.25	2	5,691	35.14	2	5,689	35.15	0	5,689	-	0	5,689	-	4	5,690	70.30
Salinas	2	8,090	24.72	2	8,058	24.82	2	8,026	24.92	3	7,995	37.52	3	7,965	37.66	1	7,935	12.60
San Germán	4	8,073	49.55	3	8,020	37.41	3	7,967	37.66	5	7,914	63.18	2	7,863	25.44	4	7,811	51.21
San Juan	42	92,498	45.41	33	91,520	36.06	29	90,553	32.03	32	89,599	35.71	30	88,655	33.84	37	87,724	42.18
San Lorenzo	3	9,354	32.07	1	9,355	10.69	1	9,356	10.69	3	9,357	32.06	1	9,358	10.69	3	9,359	32.06
San Sebastián	7	10,107	69.26	0	10,035	-	1	9,964	10.04	0	9,894	-	2	9,827	20.35	0	9,758	-
Santa Isabel	2	5,702	35.07	0	5,696	-	3	5,689	52.73	4	5,684	70.37	3	5,678	52.84	2	5,674	35.25
Toa Alta	2	12,903	15.50	3	13,228	22.68	2	13,563	14.75	1	13,906	7.19	1	14,255	7.01	3	14,616	20.52
Toa Baja	7	23,700	29.54	10	23,431	42.68	7	23,165	30.22	8	22,902	34.93	6	22,643	26.50	9	22,387	40.20
Trujillo Alto	1	16,236	6.16	6	16,345	36.71	0	16,456	-	5	16,567	30.18	6	16,678	35.97	3	16,793	17.86
Utuado	4	9,579	41.76	0	9,451	-	4	9,325	42.90	2	9,200	21.74	3	9,078	33.05	1	8,958	11.16
Vega Alta	5	9,315	53.67	4	9,287	43.07	2	9,258	21.60	2	9,229	21.67	2	9,201	21.74	1	9,173	10.90
Vega Baja	3	15,046	19.94	1	15,007	6.66	3	14,970	20.04	2	14,932	13.39	3	14,896	20.14	5	14,858	33.65
Vieques	1	2,203	45.40	1	2,194	45.59	1	2,185	45.76	1	2,178	45.92	0	2,169	-	3	2,162	138.75
Villalba	1	7,548	13.25	1	7,537	13.27	4	7,524	53.17	1	7,512	13.31	1	7,498	13.34	2	7,486	26.72
Yabucoa	5	10,220	48.92	6	10,091	59.46	3	9,963	30.11	1	9,837	10.17	0	9,715	-	2	9,595	20.84
Yauco	3	11,751	25.53	3	11,626	25.80	2	11,504	17.39	5	11,383	43.92	0	11,264	-	2	11,145	17.94

Note: Dash (-) indicates that rate is zero.

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Source: Mothers, Children, and Adolescents Division, Department of Health, Puerto Rico, March 2004.

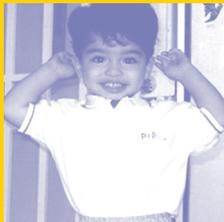


Figure 17: Child Mortality Rate in Puerto Rico, by Place of Residence, 1900 to 2000 (Cont.)

Place of Residence	1996			1997			1998			1999			2000		
	Number	Population 1 to 14 Years	Rate	Number	Population 1 to 14 Years	Rate	Number	Population 1 to 14 Years	Rate	Number	Population 1 to 14 Years	Rate	Number	Population 1 to 14 Years	Rate
Juncos	0	8,190	-	2	8,248	24.25	6	8,308	72.22	4	8,370	47.79	4	8,432	47.44
Lajas	2	5,636	35.49	0	5,635	-	4	5,632	71.02	1	5,632	17.76	1	5,632	17.76
Lares	5	8,085	61.84	5	8,089	61.81	1	8,093	12.36	2	8,098	24.70	2	8,102	24.69
Las Marías	0	2,602	-	0	2,600	-	0	2,597	-	1	2,594	38.55	2	2,592	77.16
Las Piedras	1	7,601	13.16	0	7,633	-	1	7,667	13.04	1	7,699	12.99	3	7,733	38.79
Lofza	1	9,078	11.02	6	9,044	66.35	6	9,011	66.59	2	8,977	22.28	1	8,945	11.18
Luquillo	1	4,555	21.95	0	4,547	-	1	4,537	22.04	2	4,530	44.15	2	4,522	44.23
Manatí	4	10,296	38.85	0	10,345	-	2	10,395	19.24	1	10,443	9.58	3	10,494	28.59
Maricao	0	1,674	-	2	1,643	121.75	0	1,612	-	0	1,581	-	0	1,550	-
Maunabo	1	3,154	31.70	2	3,124	64.03	2	3,095	64.63	0	3,066	-	0	3,036	-
Mayagüez	7	19,559	35.79	5	19,217	26.02	3	18,882	15.89	6	18,554	32.34	3	18,232	16.45
Moca	3	9,279	32.33	3	9,277	32.34	1	9,275	10.78	0	9,276	-	3	9,276	32.34
Morovis	1	7,896	12.67	5	7,955	62.85	2	8,015	24.95	1	8,074	12.39	0	8,135	-
Naguabo	3	5,582	53.75	2	5,518	36.24	0	5,455	-	1	5,395	18.54	2	5,333	37.50
Naranjito	0	7,517	-	1	7,452	13.42	2	7,388	27.07	3	7,325	40.96	0	7,262	-
Orocovis	3	6,359	47.18	3	6,373	47.08	0	6,386	-	4	6,401	62.49	0	6,413	-
Patillas	2	5,001	39.99	0	4,931	-	1	4,862	20.57	0	4,796	-	0	4,729	-
Peñuelas	2	7,103	28.16	1	7,118	14.05	0	7,131	-	1	7,147	13.99	0	7,160	-
Ponce	14	45,489	30.78	12	44,660	26.87	15	43,846	34.21	10	43,048	23.23	13	42,264	30.76
Quebradillas	2	5,844	34.22	1	5,852	17.09	0	5,860	-	0	5,868	-	0	5,876	-
Rincón	1	2,981	33.54	1	2,987	33.48	2	2,993	66.83	0	3,000	-	0	3,006	-
Río Grande	3	12,095	24.80	2	12,131	16.49	6	12,165	49.32	5	12,202	40.98	4	12,238	32.68
Sabana Grande	0	5,693	-	0	5,695	-	1	5,698	17.55	3	5,703	52.61	0	5,707	-
Salinas	1	7,908	12.65	0	7,880	-	1	7,852	12.74	1	7,826	12.78	2	7,800	25.64
San Germán	3	7,760	38.66	1	7,710	12.97	0	7,660	-	2	7,610	26.28	1	7,562	13.22
San Juan	34	86,804	39.17	24	85,894	27.94	21	84,995	24.71	25	84,109	29.72	15	83,232	18.02
San Lorenzo	4	9,359	42.74	1	9,361	10.68	3	9,363	32.04	3	9,366	32.03	0	9,366	-
San Sebastián	4	9,691	41.27	2	9,625	20.78	3	9,561	31.38	4	9,496	42.12	0	9,433	-
Santa Isabel	1	5,669	17.64	1	5,666	17.65	1	5,663	17.66	0	5,661	-	4	5,660	70.68
Toa Alta	2	14,986	13.35	2	15,366	13.02	3	15,754	19.04	1	16,153	6.19	2	16,562	12.08
Toa Baja	8	22,136	36.14	3	21,886	13.71	4	21,641	18.48	2	21,398	9.35	4	21,159	18.90
Trujillo Alto	5	16,907	29.57	6	17,021	35.25	1	17,137	5.84	4	17,256	23.18	3	17,374	17.27
Utuado	1	8,839	11.31	0	8,722	-	0	8,606	-	0	8,493	-	8	8,381	95.46
Vega Alta	2	9,145	21.87	5	9,118	54.84	2	9,090	22.00	3	9,062	33.11	1	9,036	11.07
Vega Baja	5	14,821	33.73	1	14,784	6.76	4	14,749	27.12	2	14,712	13.59	3	14,676	20.44
Vieques	0	2,154	-	0	2,145	-	2	2,138	93.53	0	2,131	-	0	2,124	-
Villalba	1	7,473	13.38	1	7,461	13.40	3	7,448	40.28	1	7,437	13.45	3	7,423	40.42
Yabucoa	2	9,477	21.10	4	9,361	42.73	2	9,248	21.63	4	9,137	43.78	2	9,028	22.15
Yauco	2	11,028	18.14	1	10,912	9.16	2	10,798	18.52	2	10,684	18.72	1	10,572	9.46

Note: Dash (-) indicates that rate is zero.

Source: Mothers, Children, and Adolescents Division, Department of Health, Puerto Rico, March 2004.





Overview

Adolescence, the period from approximately 10 to 18 years of age, is a significant stage in a child’s development, during which major physical and emotional changes occur. Research suggests that this transition from childhood to adulthood is critical and that young people need the support of parents and other adults to guide them as they learn new skills, become exposed to serious adult challenges, and gain experience with making a range of decisions.¹

After presenting an overview on population data for adolescents, this chapter reviews two issues for young people in Puerto Rico for which data are available: births to teenagers and adolescent deaths.

Population

NCLR obtained population data on adolescent girls in two sets: from 10 to 14 years old and from 15 to 19 years old. This section presents a summary of demographic change at the Island-wide level for these groups of young women in July for two years: 1990 and 2000.



Figure 18

Demographic Change, Number of Adolescent Girls, July 1990 and July 2000, Puerto Rico

Age Group (years)	Number of Adolescent Girls		Number Change	Percent Change
	1990	2000		
10-14	166,408	149,433	-16,975	-10%
15-19	160,881	153,972	-6,909	-4%

Source: NCLR analysis of data from Puerto Rico Planning Board, Social and Economic Planning Program, Office of the Census, provided by Mothers, Children, and Adolescents Division, Department of Health, Puerto Rico, March 2004.

As the data show, the female adolescent population experienced a decrease between the two reference years. Similar changes are noted in the demographic data for boys, also presented for the same age groups as girls, in the chart below. The

group that seems to be experiencing the largest change for both genders is the 10- to 14-year-old population, which suggests that in the next five years there will be a smaller pool of students entering high school.

Figure 19

**Demographic Change, Number of Adolescent Boys,
July 1990 and July 2000, Puerto Rico**

Age Group (years)	Number of Adolescent Boys		Number Change	Percent Change
	1990	2000		
10-14	172,242	155,603	-16,639	-10%
15-19	165,449	159,181	-6,268	-4%

Source: NCLR analysis of data from Puerto Rico Planning Board, Social and Economic Planning Program, Office of the Census, provided by Mothers, Children, and Adolescents Division, Department of Health, Puerto Rico, March 2004.



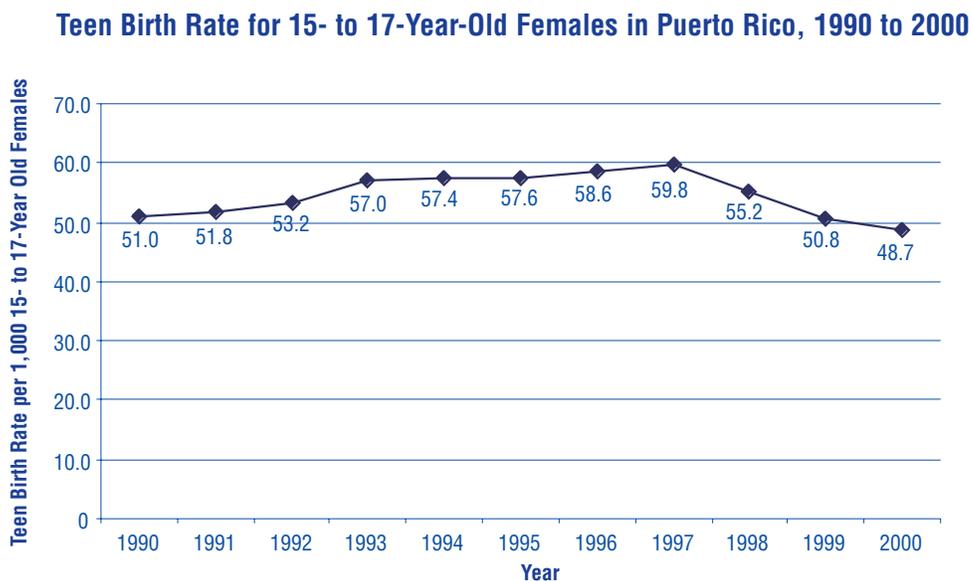
Births to Teenagers

Unplanned births to unmarried teenagers are a source of concern for Puerto Rico. The likelihood that teenage mothers and their children will spend some or all of their lives in poverty is great. Often without the financial or emotional support of the fathers or other family members and with limited education and employment skills of their own, these young families are likely to be economically unstable, and their children

tend to have limited educational opportunities and are at risk for a range of health, economic, and social challenges.²

Among teenagers aged 15 to 17 years old, the data for the Island as a whole show that there was a steady upward trend in the number of births, from 1990 to 1997 (50.98 to 59.84 births per 1,000 girls). In 1997, the birth rate for this age group began to decline, reaching 48.73 births in 2000.

Figure 20



Source: NCLR analysis of data from the Mothers, Children, and Adolescents Division, Department of Health, Puerto Rico, March 2004.

In 2000, the municipality with the highest birth rate among teenagers 15 to 17 years old was Culebra, with 122.45 births, followed by Barceloneta, with 103.07 births.

Camuy and Aguadilla were the municipalities with the lowest number of births to adolescents in this age group (23.89 and 25.59, respectively).



Teen Birth Rate for 15- to 17-Year-Old Females in Puerto Rico, by Mother's Place of Residence, 1990 to 2000

Mother's Place of Residence	1990			1991			1992			1993			1994			1995		
	Number	Female Population 15 to 17 Years	Rate	Number	Female Population 15 to 17 Years	Rate	Number	Female Population 15 to 17 Years	Rate	Number	Female Population 15 to 17 Years	Rate	Number	Female Population 15 to 17 Years	Rate	Number	Female Population 15 to 17 Years	Rate
Puerto Rico	5,001	98,101	50.98	5,047	97,438	51.80	5,147	96,797	53.17	5,484	96,163	57.03	5,486	95,540	57.42	5,465	94,936	57.57
Adjuntas	27	599	45.10	21	594	35.36	27	590	45.74	31	586	52.90	28	581	48.17	33	577	57.17
Aguada	37	1,033	35.83	41	1,042	39.33	49	1,052	46.58	43	1,062	40.50	48	1,071	44.80	43	1,082	39.75
Aguadilla	78	1,690	46.16	84	1,683	49.91	98	1,675	58.50	96	1,669	57.53	94	1,662	56.57	85	1,655	51.36
Aguas Buenas	37	755	48.98	38	755	50.31	35	756	46.32	43	756	56.91	45	755	59.60	37	756	48.95
Aibonito	44	690	63.81	35	691	50.67	28	692	40.44	37	693	53.35	47	694	67.74	56	696	80.51
Añasco	20	712	28.07	29	706	41.06	35	701	49.95	41	696	58.93	38	690	55.06	42	684	61.38
Arecibo	130	2,674	48.62	147	2,623	56.05	129	2,573	50.13	152	2,524	60.23	154	2,475	62.22	134	2,428	55.20
Arroyo	36	627	57.39	24	614	39.07	35	601	58.26	35	588	59.54	26	575	45.24	33	562	58.71
Barceloneta	39	586	66.51	41	571	71.76	35	556	62.91	40	542	73.81	44	527	83.49	40	513	78.00
Barranquitas	49	720	68.09	42	735	57.15	50	750	66.65	55	766	71.80	66	782	84.40	64	799	80.14
Bayamón	188	5,762	32.63	191	5,677	33.65	220	5,594	39.33	202	5,511	36.65	256	5,430	47.14	227	5,350	42.43
Cabo Rojo	41	1,018	40.26	57	1,010	56.45	44	1,000	43.98	42	992	42.35	49	983	49.87	45	974	46.20
Caguas	196	3,713	52.78	179	3,658	48.93	175	3,603	48.57	216	3,549	60.85	194	3,496	55.49	208	3,444	60.40
Camuy	44	793	55.46	34	793	42.86	42	793	52.98	41	793	51.68	46	794	57.94	45	794	56.68
Canóvanas	59	1,100	53.65	83	1,095	75.79	83	1,092	76.01	111	1,088	102.02	74	1,084	68.26	73	1,080	67.58
Carolina	196	4,997	39.22	157	4,898	32.05	181	4,802	37.70	197	4,707	41.85	185	4,613	40.10	217	4,521	48.00
Cataño	84	870	96.51	61	867	70.37	65	863	75.28	74	860	86.04	60	857	70.04	70	853	82.08
Cayey	78	1,400	55.72	65	1,376	47.24	60	1,353	44.34	88	1,329	66.20	68	1,307	52.03	86	1,284	66.98
Ceiba	21	409	51.35	20	402	49.78	17	396	42.94	32	389	82.19	26	383	67.93	25	376	66.47
Ciales	21	475	44.22	32	481	66.55	35	488	71.72	30	495	60.65	26	501	51.87	44	508	86.63
Cidra	53	1,061	49.96	56	1,071	52.27	45	1,082	41.60	47	1,092	43.03	65	1,103	58.92	63	1,114	56.57
Coamo	58	1,065	54.45	53	1,058	50.09	60	1,050	57.12	61	1,043	58.47	65	1,036	62.73	55	1,028	53.48
Comerio	29	542	53.50	39	544	71.70	27	547	49.35	31	549	56.48	31	551	56.22	35	554	63.19
Corozal	51	947	53.85	56	959	58.40	50	971	51.49	46	983	46.79	67	995	67.34	68	1,008	67.48
Culebra	5	37	134.85	7	37	190.01	10	37	272.24	4	36	109.67	2	36	55.96	5	35	141.31
Dorado	35	875	40.01	49	871	56.26	45	867	51.88	56	864	64.84	55	859	64.00	65	856	75.95
Fajardo	64	1,082	59.16	60	1,057	56.76	57	1,033	55.19	53	1,009	52.51	64	987	64.84	55	965	57.01
Florida	15	254	59.12	14	256	54.75	21	257	81.71	26	259	100.42	23	260	88.42	17	261	65.02
Guánica	38	603	63.05	39	597	65.36	36	591	60.93	42	585	71.74	38	580	65.57	41	574	71.48
Guayama	83	1,235	67.20	103	1,230	83.75	85	1,224	69.42	108	1,220	88.55	81	1,214	66.74	79	1,208	65.37
Guayanilla	41	642	63.87	34	636	53.43	43	631	68.14	40	625	63.95	47	620	75.80	46	614	74.87
Guaynabo	108	2,312	46.72	87	2,294	37.93	82	2,275	36.04	113	2,258	50.04	99	2,240	44.20	121	2,223	54.44
Gurabo	48	750	63.97	40	761	52.55	47	772	60.88	42	784	53.60	43	796	54.05	43	806	53.32
Hatillo	42	938	44.77	49	941	52.08	47	944	49.81	49	947	51.73	41	950	43.16	27	953	28.34
Hormigueros	8	407	19.67	12	401	29.94	11	396	27.80	7	390	17.95	16	384	41.65	10	379	26.42
Humacao	89	1,719	51.78	115	1,697	67.78	89	1,675	53.14	94	1,652	56.89	88	1,631	53.96	96	1,609	59.65
Isabela	58	1,120	51.79	72	1,115	64.59	62	1,109	55.90	54	1,104	48.91	50	1,098	45.52	65	1,093	59.46
Jayuya	24	463	51.83	30	464	64.62	25	466	53.66	31	466	66.47	34	468	72.65	33	470	70.25
Juana Díaz	90	1,401	64.22	85	1,394	60.98	96	1,386	69.25	107	1,378	77.65	108	1,370	78.85	89	1,361	65.37

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Source: Mothers, Children, and Adolescents Division, Department of Health, Puerto Rico, March 2004.



Figure 21: Teen Birth Rate for 15- to 17-Year-Old Females in Puerto Rico, by Mother's Place of Residence, 1990 to 2000 (Cont.)

Mother's Place of Residence	1996			1997			1998			1999			2000		
	Number	Female Population 15 to 17 Years	Rate	Number	Female Population 15 to 17 Years	Rate	Number	Female Population 15 to 17 Years	Rate	Number	Female Population 15 to 17 Years	Rate	Number	Female Population 15 to 17 Years	Rate
Puerto Rico	5,526	94,346	58.57	5,611	93,769	59.84	5,141	93,199	55.16	4,704	92,653	50.77	4,488	92,107	48.73
Adjuntas	34	573	59.31	30	570	52.66	25	565	44.24	34	561	60.61	34	557	61.02
Aguada	45	1,092	41.21	51	1,102	46.29	44	1,113	39.54	35	1,123	31.16	29	1,133	25.59
Aguadilla	90	1,647	54.64	97	1,641	59.11	64	1,634	39.17	72	1,628	44.24	53	1,621	32.71
Aguas Buenas	46	756	60.86	36	756	47.63	57	756	75.40	45	756	59.53	44	756	58.21
Aibonito	50	697	71.76	40	698	57.33	45	699	64.39	36	700	51.44	33	701	47.08
Añasco	49	679	72.12	35	674	51.93	33	668	49.39	25	663	37.69	21	658	31.92
Arecibo	140	2,381	58.80	134	2,335	57.38	102	2,290	44.55	111	2,246	49.42	118	2,202	53.59
Arroyo	36	549	65.55	42	537	78.24	23	525	43.83	23	513	44.86	34	501	67.84
Barceloneta	44	499	88.13	34	486	70.02	32	473	67.69	27	459	58.82	46	446	103.07
Barranquitas	58	815	71.17	50	833	60.04	68	850	80.01	45	868	51.82	51	886	57.55
Bayamón	228	5,271	43.26	261	5,192	50.26	247	5,116	48.28	192	5,040	38.10	205	4,964	41.30
Cabo Rojo	50	965	51.79	53	956	55.43	54	948	56.95	32	939	34.08	49	930	52.67
Caguas	186	3,392	54.83	205	3,341	61.36	178	3,290	54.10	173	3,241	53.37	147	3,193	46.04
Camuy	48	795	60.41	54	794	68.03	46	794	57.92	43	795	54.10	19	795	23.89
Canóvanas	77	1,076	71.53	70	1,073	65.27	84	1,069	78.61	77	1,065	72.32	73	1,061	68.82
Carolina	188	4,432	42.42	201	4,343	46.28	190	4,256	44.65	176	4,170	42.21	140	4,086	34.26
Cataño	67	850	78.82	81	847	95.65	62	844	73.48	59	841	70.18	54	838	64.47
Cayey	82	1,262	65.00	78	1,240	62.91	62	1,218	50.90	65	1,196	54.36	59	1,175	50.23
Ceiba	18	370	48.62	15	364	41.18	18	358	50.33	13	352	36.91	17	347	48.99
Ciales	43	515	83.48	35	522	67.11	36	529	68.09	38	536	70.89	37	543	68.12
Cidra	56	1,125	49.79	50	1,136	44.01	55	1,148	47.92	53	1,159	45.72	58	1,171	49.54
Coamo	61	1,021	59.72	73	1,014	71.98	55	1,006	54.65	66	999	66.05	55	992	55.44
Comerio	30	556	53.98	40	558	71.65	42	561	74.90	41	563	72.80	34	565	60.17
Corozal	60	1,021	58.78	71	1,034	68.67	71	1,047	67.84	55	1,060	51.90	52	1,074	48.44
Culebra	2	35	56.69	3	35	85.64	3	34	87.53	1	34	29.39	4	33	122.45
Dorado	42	853	49.25	49	849	57.71	47	845	55.60	51	841	60.64	36	837	42.99
Fajardo	63	943	66.80	62	921	67.30	51	901	56.61	55	880	62.51	45	861	52.28
Florida	16	263	60.93	17	264	64.31	19	266	71.53	21	267	78.53	14	269	52.12
Guánica	47	568	82.79	42	562	74.78	40	556	71.89	38	550	69.04	21	545	38.53
Guayama	94	1,203	78.13	114	1,197	95.22	98	1,191	82.26	66	1,186	55.65	71	1,180	60.16
Guayanilla	34	609	55.82	34	604	56.33	33	598	55.19	31	592	52.38	35	586	59.70
Guaynabo	109	2,205	49.43	89	2,188	40.68	90	2,170	41.47	91	2,154	42.26	95	2,137	44.45
Gurabo	69	819	84.30	43	831	51.77	47	843	55.74	45	855	52.61	39	868	44.94
Hatillo	39	956	40.78	64	959	66.74	53	962	55.10	47	965	48.69	36	968	37.18
Hormigueros	14	373	37.49	9	368	24.43	12	363	33.08	9	358	25.15	14	353	39.67
Humacao	76	1,588	47.85	110	1,568	70.17	81	1,546	52.38	69	1,525	45.24	83	1,505	55.16
Isabela	44	1,088	40.44	51	1,082	47.12	44	1,077	40.85	50	1,072	46.64	47	1,066	44.08
Jayuya	32	471	67.97	38	472	80.53	32	473	67.66	36	475	75.85	31	475	65.27
Juana Díaz	88	1,353	65.06	115	1,344	85.55	97	1,336	72.60	66	1,328	49.71	67	1,319	50.81



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Source: Mothers, Children, and Adolescents Division, Department of Health, Puerto Rico, March 2004.

Figure 21: Teen Birth Rate for 15- to 17-Year-Old Females in Puerto Rico, by Mother's Place of Residence, 1990 to 2000 (Cont.)

Mother's Place of Residence	1990			1991			1992			1993			1994			1995		
	Number	Female Population 15 to 17 Years	Rate	Number	Female Population 15 to 17 Years	Rate	Number	Female Population 15 to 17 Years	Rate	Number	Female Population 15 to 17 Years	Rate	Number	Female Population 15 to 17 Years	Rate	Number	Female Population 15 to 17 Years	Rate
Juncos	54	873	61.87	53	872	60.76	69	873	79.08	67	872	76.83	55	871	63.11	50	871	57.41
Lajas	26	642	40.49	32	636	50.34	28	631	44.40	34	625	54.42	33	620	53.26	19	614	30.95
Lares	48	845	56.78	48	852	56.32	55	859	64.06	56	865	64.75	48	871	55.10	56	878	63.79
Las Marías	11	262	41.99	12	264	45.41	13	268	48.54	19	270	70.37	12	272	44.08	7	275	25.44
Las Piedras	53	783	67.71	32	792	40.42	46	800	57.47	44	810	54.34	45	818	54.99	51	828	61.58
Loíza	67	855	78.37	66	864	76.38	75	874	85.77	57	884	64.48	67	894	74.96	79	904	87.38
Luquillo	39	534	73.01	39	528	73.89	24	521	46.02	36	514	69.97	37	509	72.72	37	502	73.64
Manatí	59	1,035	57.00	61	1,042	58.53	61	1,048	58.18	68	1,056	64.39	66	1,063	62.09	62	1,071	57.92
Maricao	23	174	132.46	12	177	67.94	16	180	89.02	12	183	65.69	12	186	64.43	19	190	100.07
Maunabo	21	369	56.85	23	365	62.94	24	361	66.54	21	357	58.86	16	352	45.46	19	348	54.62
Mayagüez	119	2,890	41.18	108	2,837	38.07	112	2,786	40.21	111	2,733	40.61	129	2,683	48.08	135	2,634	51.26
Moca	42	1,009	41.64	36	1,009	35.67	46	1,010	45.55	44	1,011	43.53	49	1,011	48.45	45	1,012	44.46
Morovis	47	727	64.61	44	737	59.68	47	747	62.91	39	758	51.48	49	767	63.86	48	778	61.71
Naguabo	52	703	73.98	31	691	44.87	42	680	61.75	44	668	65.86	39	657	59.39	33	645	51.18
Naranjito	37	717	51.61	42	726	57.87	36	735	48.96	50	744	67.20	42	754	55.72	41	763	53.73
Orocovis	47	662	70.97	49	659	74.36	42	656	63.99	51	654	78.01	50	651	76.85	46	649	70.92
Patillas	28	611	45.82	41	602	68.10	27	594	45.49	33	584	56.47	35	577	60.71	31	567	54.64
Peñuelas	41	674	60.85	36	685	52.54	46	697	66.03	55	709	77.56	53	720	73.56	50	734	68.16
Ponce	323	5,551	58.19	316	5,476	57.71	326	5,401	60.36	350	5,328	65.69	283	5,255	53.85	331	5,184	63.86
Quebradillas	23	602	38.22	21	608	34.51	24	616	38.98	18	623	28.91	36	630	57.17	34	637	53.38
Rincón	15	314	47.72	14	313	44.72	20	312	64.12	25	310	80.59	20	309	64.70	22	308	71.42
Río Grande	77	1,343	57.34	57	1,332	42.81	70	1,320	53.05	62	1,308	47.39	72	1,296	55.54	77	1,285	59.93
Sabana Grande	24	638	37.65	33	632	52.18	32	627	51.08	38	621	61.20	38	616	61.72	28	611	45.85
Salinas	80	865	92.51	75	858	87.42	67	851	78.69	65	845	76.96	72	838	85.95	80	831	96.30
San Germán	44	1,042	42.22	47	1,023	45.96	39	1,003	38.89	45	985	45.70	31	966	32.08	38	947	40.11
San Juan	505	10,312	48.97	553	10,205	54.19	603	10,101	59.70	553	9,997	55.32	615	9,895	62.15	602	9,793	61.47
San Lorenzo	46	957	48.09	56	970	57.72	39	984	39.64	55	997	55.15	59	1,012	58.33	55	1,026	53.62
San Sebastián	51	1,091	46.75	47	1,090	43.12	49	1,089	44.99	44	1,089	40.40	51	1,088	46.86	46	1,087	42.30
Santa Isabel	38	670	56.74	49	658	74.42	67	647	103.63	52	634	81.96	58	623	93.14	55	611	89.96
Toa Alta	56	1,161	48.22	58	1,200	48.33	51	1,240	41.14	70	1,280	54.69	76	1,323	57.45	75	1,367	54.87
Toa Baja	100	2,512	39.80	110	2,498	44.04	104	2,482	41.90	135	2,467	54.72	120	2,453	48.93	100	2,438	41.02
Trujillo Alto	60	1,686	35.59	65	1,697	38.29	74	1,709	43.31	71	1,720	41.28	83	1,731	47.95	74	1,742	42.48
Utua	58	1,054	55.02	49	1,043	46.97	36	1,032	34.89	48	1,021	46.99	42	1,011	41.55	55	1,000	55.01
Vega Alta	46	983	46.81	67	983	68.17	73	983	74.24	58	983	58.98	56	984	56.89	62	985	62.97
Vega Baja	97	1,538	63.05	107	1,541	69.45	103	1,544	66.72	125	1,546	80.85	118	1,548	76.21	110	1,551	70.94
Vieques	21	236	89.08	27	232	116.38	22	228	96.40	22	225	97.99	17	221	77.01	10	218	45.92
Villalba	43	754	57.04	46	757	60.76	45	760	59.20	51	764	66.76	49	767	63.88	38	771	49.29
Yabucoa	57	1,132	50.38	49	1,119	43.80	62	1,106	56.07	54	1,092	49.44	84	1,080	77.81	51	1,067	47.81
Yauco	59	1,220	48.34	55	1,210	45.44	51	1,201	42.48	85	1,191	71.38	78	1,182	66.02	74	1,172	63.16

Continued on next page

Source: Mothers, Children, and Adolescents Division, Department of Health, Puerto Rico, March 2004.



Figure 21: Teen Birth Rate for 15- to 17-Year-Old Females in Puerto Rico, by Mother's Place of Residence, 1990 to 2000 (Cont.)

Mother's Place of Residence	1996			1997			1998			1999			2000		
	Number	Female Population 15 to 17 Years	Rate	Number	Female Population 15 to 17 Years	Rate	Number	Female Population 15 to 17 Years	Rate	Number	Female Population 15 to 17 Years	Rate	Number	Female Population 15 to 17 Years	Rate
Juncos	59	870	67.78	47	870	53.99	54	870	62.08	51	869	58.67	53	869	61.01
Lajas	36	608	59.20	34	603	56.40	33	597	55.27	19	592	32.10	22	585	37.58
Lares	52	884	58.82	46	891	51.63	60	897	66.88	61	904	67.44	51	911	56.00
Las Marías	18	278	64.74	11	281	39.19	19	283	67.05	18	286	62.94	20	289	69.26
Las Piedras	55	837	65.70	50	847	59.04	42	856	49.07	39	865	45.07	42	876	47.95
Loíza	75	915	81.98	78	924	84.37	58	936	61.98	57	946	60.26	61	957	63.76
Luquillo	29	496	58.46	44	490	89.84	33	484	68.24	34	478	71.15	27	472	57.25
Manatí	67	1,078	62.15	79	1,085	72.82	71	1,092	65.00	71	1,099	64.59	68	1,107	61.42
Maricao	15	193	77.57	20	197	101.56	14	200	69.84	17	205	83.04	15	208	72.07
Maunabo	24	343	69.93	16	340	47.09	18	335	53.72	23	331	69.51	13	327	39.77
Mayagüez	134	2,585	51.85	123	2,536	48.50	118	2,489	47.42	109	2,442	44.64	101	2,397	42.14
Moca	47	1,013	46.41	45	1,013	44.41	44	1,014	43.40	46	1,015	45.33	47	1,015	46.31
Morovis	76	788	96.41	66	799	82.56	58	810	71.62	52	821	63.35	35	831	42.10
Naguabo	27	634	42.58	38	623	61.02	32	612	52.29	26	601	43.24	41	591	69.43
Naranjito	54	773	69.90	56	782	71.61	56	792	70.68	46	802	57.33	41	812	50.46
Orocovis	43	645	66.62	39	643	60.67	49	640	76.53	42	637	65.92	47	635	73.98
Patillas	23	559	41.11	41	551	74.34	24	543	44.16	19	536	35.48	35	527	66.42
Peñuelas	56	746	75.07	44	758	58.06	46	771	59.68	48	784	61.20	50	797	62.73
Ponce	348	5,113	68.06	297	5,043	58.89	273	4,974	54.88	247	4,907	50.34	228	4,840	47.11
Quebradillas	33	644	51.23	39	651	59.87	27	659	40.99	38	666	57.03	27	674	40.08
Rincón	17	306	55.51	14	305	45.89	16	304	52.71	14	302	46.30	20	300	66.65
Río Grande	86	1,273	67.55	67	1,262	53.10	59	1,251	47.18	51	1,239	41.15	57	1,229	46.39
Sabana Grande	37	606	61.10	32	600	53.34	36	595	60.53	32	590	54.27	19	585	32.50
Salinas	77	824	93.47	78	818	95.41	54	811	66.62	72	804	89.51	63	797	79.05
San Germán	35	930	37.65	40	912	43.86	35	894	39.13	40	877	45.59	32	860	37.19
San Juan	563	9,692	58.09	587	9,593	61.19	529	9,494	55.72	445	9,396	47.36	449	9,300	48.28
San Lorenzo	62	1,040	59.62	55	1,056	52.11	52	1,070	48.62	52	1,085	47.92	31	1,101	28.17
San Sebastián	60	1,087	55.18	63	1,086	57.99	56	1,086	51.58	52	1,085	47.93	48	1,084	44.28
Santa Isabel	61	600	101.67	62	589	105.19	40	578	69.18	47	568	82.82	54	556	97.09
Toa Alta	75	1,412	53.11	62	1,459	42.50	71	1,507	47.10	69	1,557	44.31	69	1,609	42.88
Toa Baja	120	2,423	49.53	136	2,408	56.47	120	2,393	50.15	105	2,378	44.15	105	2,363	44.43
Trujillo Alto	76	1,754	43.33	84	1,765	47.59	78	1,776	43.91	70	1,788	39.14	55	1,800	30.56
Utuado	43	989	43.48	45	979	45.97	54	969	55.74	42	958	43.84	45	949	47.44
Vega Alta	67	985	68.03	70	985	71.05	68	985	69.00	61	986	61.84	57	986	57.80
Vega Baja	132	1,553	85.00	102	1,555	65.58	114	1,557	73.22	90	1,560	57.70	99	1,561	63.42
Vieques	17	214	79.47	17	210	80.89	18	207	86.91	21	204	103.19	18	200	90.13
Villalba	52	774	67.17	62	777	79.75	40	781	51.23	52	784	66.32	48	788	60.90
Yabucoa	49	1,054	46.48	75	1,041	72.02	66	1,030	64.11	57	1,016	56.08	47	1,004	46.79
Yauco	71	1,161	61.15	71	1,151	61.67	66	1,141	57.83	57	1,132	50.35	48	1,122	42.80



Source: Mothers, Children, and Adolescents Division, Department of Health, Puerto Rico, March 2004.

Birth data for young girls under 15 years old also show an upward trend from 350 births in 1990 to 444 births in 1994, for the Island as a whole. While the number of births to this age group declined slightly in 1995, there was another increase in 1996. From that point on, the trend has been downward, with 411 births recorded in 1997 and a low of 272 births registered in 2000 in Puerto Rico all together.

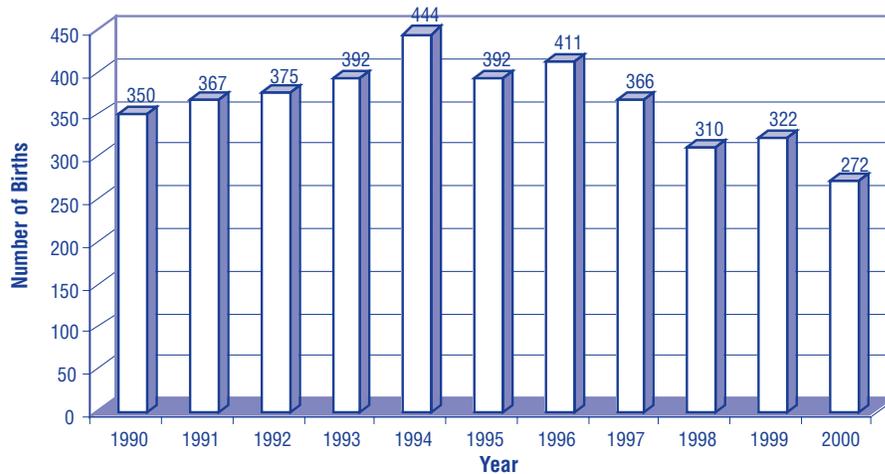
Data by municipality show that San Juan had 35 births to girls under 15 in 2000 – the

highest of any municipality – although this represents a decline from 55 births in 1994, the year with the highest number of total births to girls in this age group (444). Other municipalities with a high number of births to girls under 15 in 2000 include Ponce, with 16 births, and Bayamón, with 15 births. The following ten municipalities recorded zero births to girls under 15 in 2000: Adjuntas, Aguadilla, Camuy, Culebra, Guayanilla, Jayuya, Naranjito, Patillas, Quebradillas, and Sábana Grande.



Figure 22

Number of Births to Females Under 15 Years in Puerto Rico, 1990 to 2000



Source: NCLR analysis of data from the Mothers, Children, and Adolescents Division, Department of Health, Puerto Rico, March 2004.

Number of Births Under 15 Years in Puerto Rico, by Mother's Place of Residence, 1990 to 2000

Mother's Place of Residence	Number of Births per Year											
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	Total
Puerto Rico	350	367	375	392	444	392	411	366	310	322	272	4001
Adjuntas	1	4	1	2	2	2	1	2	4	4	0	23
Aguada	0	6	5	0	2	2	1	4	2	1	3	26
Aguadilla	7	6	3	8	7	2	5	5	2	8	0	53
Aguas Buenas	1	3	2	3	4	2	3	1	0	0	2	21
Aibonito	2	2	1	2	0	1	2	2	2	4	3	21
Añasco	0	2	3	6	7	2	2	1	1	5	3	32
Arecibo	15	16	15	15	8	8	9	12	13	6	8	125
Arroyo	1	1	0	2	6	2	2	4	1	0	2	21
Barceloneta	3	3	5	1	5	4	0	1	0	1	2	25
Barranquitas	4	1	2	1	3	3	5	4	3	2	1	29
Bayamón	5	19	11	20	18	17	17	8	13	10	15	153
Cabo Rojo	2	3	4	1	9	4	3	6	3	3	4	42
Caguas	16	12	12	11	17	13	14	12	10	15	6	138
Camuy	4	4	3	7	6	2	3	0	1	2	0	32
Canóvanas	4	1	5	6	8	8	7	4	8	8	2	61
Carolina	8	14	12	13	14	12	18	12	7	6	9	125
Cataño	9	7	7	8	10	5	12	8	6	7	4	83
Cayey	4	4	9	7	12	5	3	1	5	2	3	55
Ceiba	0	1	1	0	2	1	1	3	0	1	1	11
Ciales	2	4	2	2	3	2	3	2	3	1	2	26
Cidra	2	4	3	5	4	2	3	4	2	2	1	32
Coamo	4	4	4	2	4	3	4	4	3	4	2	38
Comerio	3	1	2	1	0	2	7	1	4	2	3	26
Corozal	3	2	1	2	6	8	8	6	8	0	8	52
Culebra	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	3
Dorado	7	8	4	7	5	3	3	4	4	4	2	51
Fajardo	5	5	3	1	3	9	7	2	3	0	2	40
Florida	0	2	1	4	1	2	2	0	0	0	1	13
Guánica	3	2	3	3	2	1	2	1	2	2	3	24
Guayama	5	6	5	7	2	8	2	6	3	8	3	55
Guayanilla	4	1	1	4	3	2	4	4	3	1	0	27
Guaynabo	7	6	13	8	4	7	11	13	8	7	4	88
Gurabo	3	4	7	3	3	6	7	5	1	2	3	44
Hatillo	6	2	6	4	5	4	3	1	2	2	1	36
Hormigueros	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	5
Humacao	6	15	8	7	5	10	6	8	4	4	2	75
Isabela	6	2	7	2	5	3	5	1	3	4	2	40
Jayuya	0	3	2	3	2	4	1	0	2	1	0	18
Juana Díaz	6	8	8	5	7	7	10	7	5	5	8	76

Continued on next page

Source: Mothers, Children and Adolescent Division, Department of Health, Puerto Rico, March 2004.



Figure 23: Number of Births Under 15 Years in Puerto Rico, by Mother's Place of Residence, 1990 to 2000 (Cont.)

Mother's Place of Residence	Number of Births per Year											
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	Total
Juncos	3	10	4	3	4	4	5	3	5	5	2	48
Lajas	0	1	3	1	4	1	1	2	2	0	2	17
Lares	10	2	6	2	4	5	6	6	6	5	5	57
Las Marías	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	2	0	2	9
Las Piedras	5	4	0	6	5	4	2	2	3	0	2	33
Loiza	7	6	3	9	8	6	7	5	7	6	6	70
Luquillo	2	3	6	4	5	3	6	7	3	2	3	44
Manatí	1	4	5	7	11	1	4	4	2	1	2	42
Maricao	2	1	0	2	0	3	1	3	2	0	2	16
Maunabo	4	1	3	1	1	0	1	0	0	3	4	18
Mayagüez	12	7	5	6	7	7	10	7	5	11	6	83
Moca	4	6	3	2	5	2	3	2	0	4	2	33
Morovis	4	2	7	9	2	4	4	2	3	1	5	43
Naguabo	1	4	2	2	2	5	2	6	2	2	3	31
Naranjito	3	2	1	2	2	6	3	3	0	2	0	24
Orocovis	3	1	3	3	3	4	1	3	2	2	2	27
Patillas	3	2	3	2	2	1	1	3	1	0	0	18
Peñuelas	2	3	2	6	6	4	6	4	5	5	2	45
Ponce	20	23	28	22	28	25	24	21	11	12	16	230
Quebradillas	0	2	1	2	2	2	1	2	1	6	0	19
Rincón	2	2	0	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	1	10
Río Grande	2	4	4	3	5	4	2	4	3	5	3	39
Sabana Grande	3	0	2	1	3	4	1	1	0	2	0	17
Salinas	2	6	8	5	5	7	8	6	8	7	2	64
San Germán	2	4	2	1	3	2	3	1	2	2	1	23
San Juan	29	35	46	43	55	46	48	38	43	43	35	461
San Lorenzo	1	4	6	2	4	1	4	5	3	8	4	42
San Sebastián	4	2	3	1	7	3	3	3	5	4	3	38
Santa Isabel	3	6	3	3	5	6	7	7	3	8	2	53
Toa Alta	2	0	5	2	2	8	6	5	5	4	5	44
Toa Baja	11	6	7	7	6	4	8	9	6	4	2	70
Trujillo Alto	8	3	8	5	9	3	3	7	8	4	4	62
Utuado	5	2	1	3	5	3	5	3	2	2	3	34
Vega Alta	8	4	4	6	5	7	5	6	4	9	2	60
Vega Baja	6	5	2	11	8	11	5	8	5	9	6	76
Vieques	3	1	1	0	1	1	2	3	2	2	1	17
Villalba	5	2	3	5	1	8	2	3	3	1	5	38
Yabucoa	4	5	1	6	5	5	6	4	1	4	3	44
Yauco	5	4	3	11	9	2	5	3	2	3	8	55

Source: Mothers, Children and Adolescent Division, Department of Health, Puerto Rico, March 2004.



Adolescent Mortality

Trend data from 1990 to 2001 show that there have been fluctuations in the number of deaths among teenagers aged 10 to 14 years. The decade began with 71 deaths in 1990; in 2001 there were ten fewer deaths. During this period, the number of deaths among teenagers was highest in 1994, with 103 deaths, while the lowest number of deaths recorded over this 11-year span was 51 in 2000. Data show that the number of deaths among male teenagers tends to be higher, although in 2000 there were almost

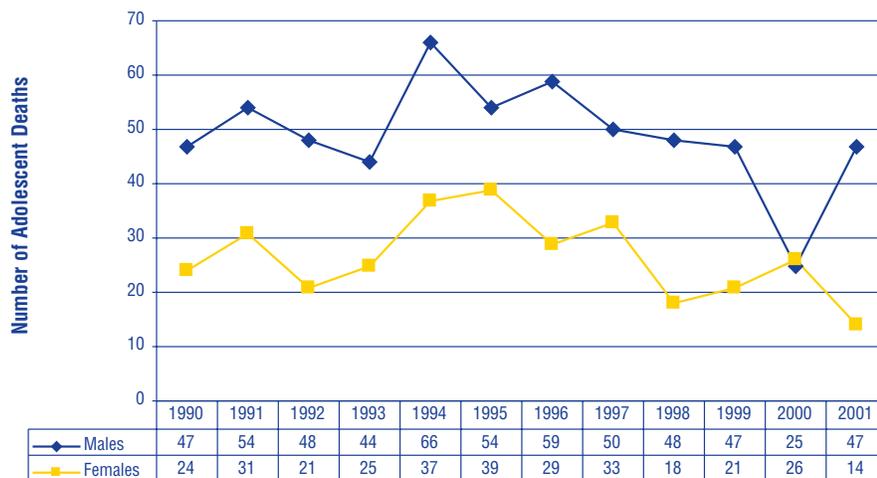
an equal number of male and female deaths.

Data show that most adolescent deaths are due to natural causes, followed by accidents. There has been a troubling trend in deaths caused by suicide and homicide, which peaked at five and 14, respectively, in 1994, as Figure 25 shows. Puerto Rico lost 51 adolescent boys and 20 teenage girls between the ages of 10 and 14 to homicides between 1990 and 2000 (see Figure 25).



Figure 24

Number of Teen Deaths (10 to 14 Years) in Puerto Rico, by Gender, 1990 to 2001



Source: NCLR analysis of data from the Mothers, Children, and Adolescents Division, Department of Health, Puerto Rico, March 2004.

Figure 25

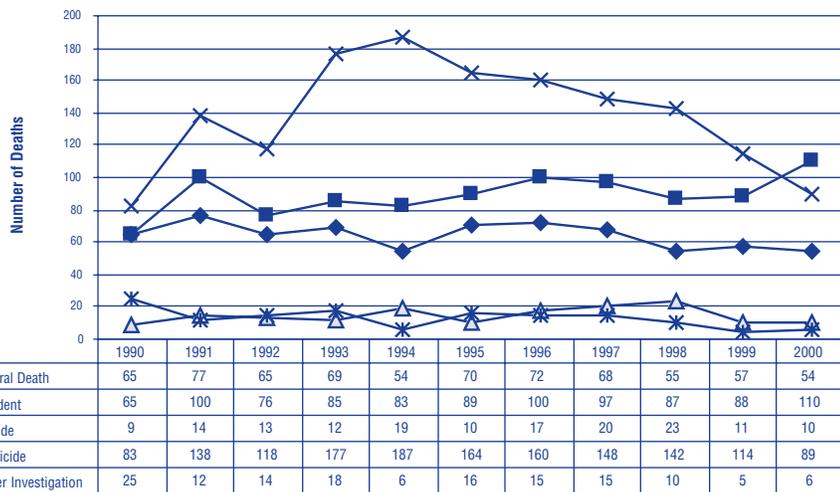
Number of Teen Deaths (10 to 14 Years) in Puerto Rico, by Gender and by Cause of Death, 1990 to 2000

Cause of Death	Number of Deaths per Year											
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	Total
Males												
Natural Death	15	18	16	18	23	29	32	24	27	30	12	244
Accident	25	24	24	13	27	20	22	20	14	16	11	216
Suicide	2	1	0	0	5	0	1	1	2	0	0	12
Homicide	2	6	6	9	11	3	3	4	4	1	2	51
Under Investigation	3	5	2	4	0	2	1	1	1	0	0	19
Puerto Rico	47	54	48	44	66	54	59	50	48	47	25	542
Females												
Natural Death	18	23	13	15	24	28	22	19	13	14	15	204
Accident	5	6	3	7	10	10	4	12	4	4	7	72
Suicide	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	4
Homicide	0	2	4	1	3	1	2	2	1	0	4	20
Under Investigation	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	4
Puerto Rico	24	31	21	25	37	39	29	33	18	21	26	304

Source: NCLR analysis of data from the Mothers, Children, and Adolescents Division, Department of Health, Puerto Rico, March 2004.

Figure 26

Number of Teen Deaths (15 to 19 Years) in Puerto Rico, by Cause of Death, 1990 to 2000



Source: NCLR analysis of data from the Mothers, Children, and Adolescents Division, Department of Health, Puerto Rico, March 2004.

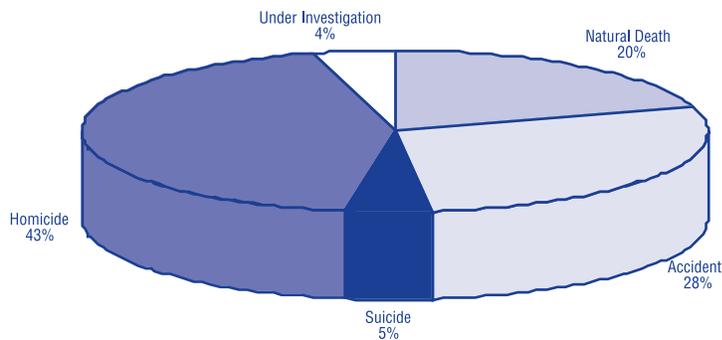


Among adolescents aged 15 to 19, the number of deaths is much higher than among those in the 10-14-year-old age group over the 1990-2001 period. The leading cause of death among teenagers 15 to 19 years old is homicide, followed by accidents. In fact, between 1990 and 2000, slightly more than two of every five deaths (43%) among 15- to 19-year-olds in Puerto Rico were homicides (see Figure 27).

At the start of the decade, 192 male adolescents were killed, the lowest number during that time. For male adolescents, the peak of adolescent deaths occurred in 1994, with 176 homicides. For female adolescents 15 to 19 years old, the greatest number of homicides (16) occurred in 1996. All together, from 1990 to 2000, 1,520 teenagers aged 15 to 19 were killed in Puerto Rico – 93% of whom were male – and 980 died of accidents.

Figure 27

Percent of Teen Deaths (15 to 19 Years) in Puerto Rico, by Cause of Death, Decade 1990 to 2000



Source: NCLR analysis of data from the Mothers, Children, and Adolescents Division, Department of Health, Puerto Rico, March 2004.



Figure 28

Number of Teen Deaths (15 to 19 Years) in Puerto Rico, by Gender and by Cause of Death, 1990 to 2000

Cause of Death	Number of Deaths per Year											Total
	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	
Males												
Natural Death	25	45	35	36	25	34	42	37	34	31	30	374
Accident	59	88	63	69	70	74	79	83	70	74	89	818
Suicide	7	13	13	7	17	10	11	20	20	9	8	135
Homicide	79	126	111	162	176	153	144	141	131	110	83	1416
Under Investigation	22	10	13	12	5	15	14	11	9	3	4	118
Puerto Rico	192	282	235	286	293	286	290	292	264	227	214	2861
Females												
Natural Death	40	32	30	33	29	36	30	31	21	26	24	332
Accident	6	12	13	16	13	15	21	14	17	14	21	162
Suicide	2	1	0	5	2	0	6	0	3	2	2	23
Homicide	4	12	7	15	11	11	16	7	11	4	6	104
Under Investigation	3	2	1	6	1	1	1	4	1	2	2	24
Puerto Rico	55	59	51	75	56	63	74	56	53	48	55	645

Source: NCLR analysis of data from the Mothers, Children, and Adolescents Division, Department of Health, Puerto Rico, March 2004.

Urban areas such as San Juan, Ponce, Carolina, Bayamón and Caguas lead with the highest overall number of teen deaths during the decade from 1990 to 2000. The municipalities with the lowest number of

teen deaths during the same period of time were Hormigueros, Culebra, Maricao, Las Marías, Maunabo, Vieques, Jayuya and Ciales.



Figure 29

**Number of Teen Deaths (15 to 19 Years) in Puerto Rico,
by Place of Residence, 1990 to 2001**

Place of Residence	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Puerto Rico	247	341	286	361	349	349	364	348	317	275	269	251
Adjuntas	0	1	1	2	0	2	1	3	0	2	0	1
Aguada	0	3	3	2	1	3	2	1	0	3	3	3
Aguadilla	3	5	3	9	3	6	6	3	6	5	7	5
Aguas Buenas	1	0	1	1	2	4	2	3	1	1	0	3
Aibonito	1	1	3	3	1	2	3	0	0	2	2	3
Añasco	2	3	1	4	1	1	1	2	0	1	1	0
Arecibo	2	6	4	6	4	7	10	10	1	7	4	5
Arroyo	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	3	3	1	1
Barceloneta	2	4	2	0	0	0	6	0	2	1	2	3
Barranquitas	1	1	4	2	3	2	1	1	2	0	0	4
Bayamón	13	21	21	23	19	15	17	22	19	10	11	13
Cabo Rojo	4	0	2	5	1	4	4	2	3	2	1	1
Caguas	7	10	9	15	11	13	11	11	6	6	7	8
Camuy	3	2	0	1	3	3	2	2	3	3	0	5
Canóvanas	2	3	4	6	10	1	8	8	4	7	5	8
Carolina	19	14	17	29	26	17	26	14	17	9	14	17
Cataño	11	11	4	4	10	7	4	4	1	4	8	1
Cayey	5	2	6	5	6	4	10	5	3	6	2	6
Ceiba	1	0	2	1	1	1	2	0	2	1	0	1
Ciales	1	1	0	0	2	3	1	0	0	0	0	0
Cidra	5	2	1	0	0	3	1	3	2	7	1	3
Coamo	3	0	3	1	1	0	1	3	2	0	3	1
Comerío	1	2	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	1	1	1
Corozal	1	0	3	1	2	3	2	7	2	2	3	1
Culebra	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Dorado	0	2	1	5	2	6	4	4	4	4	2	2
Fajardo	2	3	1	2	5	2	5	4	5	4	1	3
Florida	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	3	1	2	0
Guánica	0	1	1	2	3	1	2	1	2	1	3	0
Guayama	2	7	5	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4
Guayanilla	2	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
Guaynabo	4	13	6	8	8	17	14	4	8	7	4	12
Gurabo	2	3	5	1	5	3	0	4	3	6	4	1
Hatillo	1	6	0	0	2	1	1	3	0	0	1	3
Hormigueros	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Humacao	3	3	8	1	8	4	2	5	8	2	2	3
Isabela	1	3	1	3	4	4	4	5	3	1	2	3
Jayuya	1	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	2
Juana Díaz	3	6	1	1	0	5	4	1	2	5	8	2



Continued on next page

Source: NCLR analysis of data from the Mothers, Children, and Adolescents Division, Department of Health, Puerto Rico, March 2004.

Figure 29: Number of Teen Deaths (15 to 19 Years) in Puerto Rico, by Place of Residence, 1990 to 2001 (Cont.)

Place of Residence	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Juncos	2	1	2	4	3	1	3	3	3	2	6	2
Lajas	2	1	2	1	1	1	3	0	3	1	0	1
Lares	0	4	1	1	3	1	1	4	4	2	2	0
Las Marías	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0
Las Piedras	1	2	0	4	0	5	2	1	3	0	0	1
Loiza	3	4	1	8	4	4	1	3	12	7	9	10
Luquillo	1	2	1	4	4	0	3	0	0	2	1	0
Manatí	4	1	1	3	4	6	2	7	5	1	5	0
Maricao	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1
Maunabo	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Mayagüez	4	4	5	10	8	9	5	7	5	8	4	3
Moca	1	4	0	0	2	1	0	5	1	0	1	0
Morovis	2	0	1	2	0	1	1	4	3	2	10	4
Naguabo	3	4	0	1	6	4	3	5	6	2	0	1
Naranjito	1	3	3	3	1	1	3	2	2	2	2	2
Orocovis	1	3	0	3	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	0
Patillas	0	1	1	1	1	0	4	2	1	1	1	1
Peñuelas	3	1	0	0	1	1	2	2	3	3	0	0
Ponce	21	18	11	19	18	18	25	32	17	15	24	12
Quebradillas	0	2	3	4	2	0	2	0	1	0	1	0
Rincón	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	2	0	3	1	0
Río Grande	2	5	2	3	5	7	11	3	10	4	3	4
Sabana Grande	1	1	3	1	3	1	1	1	2	0	0	0
Salinas	0	2	5	0	3	1	3	4	1	3	2	2
San Germán	2	6	0	2	0	0	1	1	1	2	0	0
San Juan	47	97	82	87	82	77	67	61	60	48	40	46
San Lorenzo	2	0	2	6	3	1	1	3	2	3	1	3
San Sebastián	2	4	2	3	2	2	5	2	3	3	4	2
Santa Isabel	1	1	2	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	3	2
Toa Alta	2	0	2	7	7	7	2	6	1	5	4	2
Toa Baja	7	7	10	10	6	12	13	6	8	9	3	7
Trujillo Alto	4	5	3	6	7	6	4	5	8	7	5	8
Utua	1	0	1	1	2	0	3	3	1	0	3	1
Vega Alta	4	2	1	4	3	6	5	6	2	4	5	0
Vega Baja	5	4	5	4	5	5	5	4	5	5	6	1
Vieques	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	1	1
Villalba	1	2	0	2	0	2	2	2	2	0	3	1
Yabucoa	1	3	2	3	1	5	6	6	3	5	3	2
Yauco	4	0	3	2	3	1	6	4	3	0	1	1
Not Resident	1	1	2	2	3	7	1	1	6	1	1	0
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0

Source: NCLR analysis of data from the Mothers, Children, and Adolescents Division, Department of Health, Puerto Rico, March 2004.



Endnotes

1. For a discussion of these issues and youth development overall, view the resources on the website of the Academy for Educational Development, The Center for Youth Development and Policy Research: <http://cyd.aed.org/mission.html> or <http://www.aed.org/aedgroups/socialchange/cydprinfo.html>.
2. See materials from the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, available at: <http://www.teenpregnancy.org/Default.asp?bhcp=1>



Conclusions

This first *KIDS COUNT – Puerto Rico Data Book* presents a mixed picture of the status of children on the Island.

Taken together, the data show that there are several positive trends on issues related to child health and adolescent well-being:

- The number of **low birth weight babies** born in Puerto Rico appears to have begun to decline since 1999.
- Both **infant mortality** and **child mortality** are also registering downward slides.
- The number of **births to teenagers**, while still high and concentrated in specific municipalities, has declined, both for adolescents 15 to 17 years old and for girls under 15 years old.

In terms of areas of concern, the data presented in this book suggest that the following issues merit further research, analysis, and attention:

- **Family structure** is a very important predictor of the social and economic security of children and there has been an increase in the 1990-2000 decade in the proportion of children in Puerto Rico born to and living with only one parent. Outcomes for children tend to be best when both parents are actively and consistently involved in providing emotional, financial, and other supports to their children.
- Far too many children in Puerto Rico live in **poverty**. It has been well documented that child poverty is associated with poor health, negative

school experiences and outcomes, substance use and abuse, teenage pregnancy, and other social risks.

- The number of **child and youth homicide** victims in Puerto Rico is alarming. In particular, among the 15- to 19-year-old population, a significant proportion of deaths are homicides. In the 1990-2000 decade, Puerto Rico lost more than 1,500 youth to homicide – and 93% of these were male.

In addition, preliminary analysis of the data suggests that 1994 was an especially bad year for Puerto Rico's adolescents. During that year, 294 males ages 15 to 19 were killed and 444 babies were born to girls under 15 years old (the highest numbers in both categories).

The hope is that this first data book will help to bring these and other children's issues to the forefront of public policy and media attention, and generate discussion about how to address these concerns. In addition, these data can be useful for program planning by community-based organizations, government agencies, and corporate and foundation philanthropic entities as they consider what services children and youth need, and where to invest resources for children on the Island. Finally, as the first effort of its kind, the *KIDS COUNT – Puerto Rico Data Book* also hopes to encourage accurate, reliable, and consistent data collection on these indicators to enhance the understanding of and knowledgeably address issues affecting children in Puerto Rico.



Appendices



Methodology and Definitions of Key Indicators

As outlined below, the KIDS COUNT – Puerto Rico Project engaged in a series of efforts over an 18-month period to produce this first data book:

1. **Consultations with KIDS COUNT Grantees**, for advice and guidance, as well as with the Annie E. Casey Foundation KIDS COUNT staff. This included a review of the data books from other states, as well as direct discussions to get insights on successful models and strategies for research and the book's production.
2. **An Assessment of the Landscape.** NCLR staff met with representatives from government agencies that collect information on children, nonprofit and community-based organizations, the philanthropic community, and the private sector to explain the project's goals, build relationships and a base of knowledge, and solicit program and other support.
3. **Formation of an Advisory Committee and Coordination of Planning Sessions.** An external Advisory Committee was formed to provide guidance to the KIDS COUNT planning process, as well as development support. The Advisory Committee includes experts from Puerto Rico's philanthropic, academic, and nonprofit communities, as well as representatives from the private, public, and community-based sectors. (See



Appendix C for full list). NCLR convened this group twice over a ten-month period to help lay out a common vision that could guide the project, define the indicators and sources, and identify additional activities or possible projects that can be undertaken related to the data book.

4. **Compilation and Review of Data and Research.** Once the initial groundwork for the project was laid, NCLR engaged in extensive research activities to provide a base of statistical and qualitative information on children in Puerto Rico. This included contacting by phone and in writing various organizations and conducting several meetings with agencies and organizations to obtain articles and reports from researchers and local organizations, as well as published and unpublished data from the U.S. Census Bureau and Puerto Rico government agencies, specifically, the Department of Health, the Department of Education, and the Department of the Family.

Data Selection Criteria

The data selected for inclusion in the *2004 KIDS COUNT – Puerto Rico Data Book* meet the following criteria:

- Reliable and consistent local government agency data
- Available from 1990 to 2000

- Available at the Island-wide and Municipality level
- Significant indicators for children’s well-being in Puerto Rico

While the data collection team reviewed and analyzed data related to other child-focused indicators, especially a range of education-related statistics, these were not included in this book in part because KIDS COUNT – Puerto Rico Project staff identified:

- Inconsistency in the geographical distribution that each agency assigns to the municipalities in Puerto Rico, which prevented comparisons among indicators.
- Unclear or problematic data collection methods (including nonelectronic data collection).
- Incomplete data for the years selected; some agencies keep their data for a fixed period of time (e.g., five years) and then discard the data.
- Unreliable data, which in some cases included missing and extreme values.
- Indicators with different definitions locally when compared to the definitions of the KIDS COUNT key indicators of child well-being.

Data are presented exactly as they were obtained from the government agencies, unless otherwise noted. Most data are presented in percentages (a number per 100; dividing the number in a subgroup by the number in the total group and multiplying by 100). Other data, as applicable, are presented as a rate (e.g., teen birth rate) – which involves dividing the number in a subgroup by the number in the total group and multiplying by a specific figure, in this case 1,000.* Rates were calculated and obtained from government agencies.

Data Sources and Definitions

As noted in the Introduction, the data presented in this book were obtained from Census 2000 and Puerto Rico government agencies. Specific divisions or departments within each agency that provided data are listed under each corresponding map and figure throughout the book.

Below is a list of the ten standard indicators selected and used by the KIDS COUNT National Data Book, with their definitions. The indicators included in this *2004 KIDS COUNT – Puerto Rico Data Book* are noted with an asterisk (*). All the indicators are provided with the hope that Puerto Rico’s future data books will be able to include these data.



* The explanations included here on percentage and rate were taken from the *2000 Maryland KIDS COUNT Fact Book*, prepared and published by the Maryland KIDS COUNT Partnership.

Chapter 1

- ***Percent of Children in Poverty** is the share of children under the age of 18 who live in families with incomes below the U.S. poverty threshold, as defined by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. The federal poverty definition consists of a series of thresholds based on family size and composition. In 1999, the poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children was \$16,895. Poverty status is not determined for people in military barracks or institutional quarters, or for unrelated individuals under the age of 15 (such as foster children).
- **Percent of Children Living in Families Where No Parent Has Full-Time, Year-Round Employment** is the share of all children under age 18 living in families where no parent has regular, full-time employment. For children living in single-parent families, this means the resident parent did not work at least 35 hours per week, at least 50 weeks in the previous calendar year. For children living in married-couple families, this means neither parent worked at least 35 hours per week, at least 50 weeks in the previous calendar year. Children living with neither parent also were listed as not having secure parental employment because those children are likely to be economically vulnerable.



- ***Percent of Families with Children Headed by a Single Parent** is the percentage of all families with own children under age 18 living in the household, headed by a person – male or female – without a spouse present in the home. “Own children” includes never-married persons under age 18 who are the sons or daughters of the householder (head of the household). The householders’ stepchildren and adopted children also are counted as “own children.”

Chapter 2

- ***Percent of Low Birth Weight Babies** is the share of live births weighing less than 2,500 grams (5.5 pounds). The data are reported by place of mother’s residence, not place of birth. Each year there is a small number of births in which the weight of the newborn is not recorded, and births of unknown weight are not included in these calculations.
- ***Infant Mortality Rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)** is the number of deaths occurring to infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births. The data are reported by place of residence, not place of death.

- ***Child Death Rate (deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14)** is the number of deaths to children between ages 1-14, from all causes, per 100,000 children in this age range. The data are reported by place of death.

Chapter 3

- ***Teen Birth Rate (births per 1,000 females ages 15-17)** is the number of births to teenagers between ages 15 and 17 per 1,000 females in this age group. Data reflect the mother's place of residence, rather than place of birth. This measure of teenage childbearing focuses on the fertility of all females ages 15 to 17, regardless of marital status. This data book presented statistics for teenagers 15 to 19, and under 15 years old, since this is an important indicator of concern for Puerto Rico.

- ***Rate of Teen Deaths by Accident, Homicide, and Suicide (deaths per 100,000 teens ages 15-19)** is the number of deaths from accidents, homicides, and suicides to teens between the ages of 15 and 19, per 100,000 teens in this age group. The data in this data book are reported by number of deaths and by place of residence, not where the death occurred.

- **Percent of Teens Not Attending School and Not Working (ages 16-19)** is the percentage of teenagers between ages 16 and 19 who are not enrolled in school (full- or part-time) and not employed (full- or part-time).

- **Percent of Teens Who are High School Dropouts (ages 16-19)** is the percentage of teenagers between ages 16 and 19 who are not enrolled in school and are not high school graduates. Those who have a General Equivalency Diploma (GED) or equivalent are included as high school graduates in this measure.



Education is arguably one of the most important priorities for children and youth in Puerto Rico, and for the Island as a whole. The direct relationship between education and skill levels and employment and earnings has been well documented; moreover, in the current economy, the demand for well-prepared and skilled workers underscores the need for high-quality education, increased academic opportunities, and a strong and well-supported education system.

New federal policy has also put a spotlight on the need to strengthen public education. In spite of extensive debates on assessments and accountability in education, the federal government has moved toward holding states, school districts, and schools accountable for improving the academic outcomes of disadvantaged children, using assessments as the primary measure of student achievement. While there exists a range of viewpoints about the advantages and disadvantages of such approaches and their implementation, federal law enacted in 2002 now places strict requirements on public education in the areas of standards



and assessments. Specifically, the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) measures achievement in reading and mathematics in grades three through eight, and states, school districts, and schools are required to increase test score results for all students in these grades or be subject to corrective actions.*

As a result, the initial conceptualization and development of the *2004 KIDS COUNT – Puerto Rico Data Book* included a chapter on education, which intended to present trend data for 1990-2000 on the a number of education indicators, from enrollment to high school attainment to the proportion of students in special education.

Between February 2003 and March 2004, KIDS COUNT – Puerto Rico Project staff worked closely with a number of staff at the Puerto Rico Department of Education, with the KIDS COUNT – Puerto Rico Advisory Committee members with expertise in education, and a university professor who has extensive knowledge of the Department of Education database. Staff also consulted with Child Trends** to review the data and discuss strategy with respect

* For more information on NCLB, see, González, Raul, "The No Child Left Behind Act: Implications for Local Educators and Advocates for Latino Students, Families, and Communities," Issue Brief No. 8, Washington, DC: National Council of La Raza, July 2002.

** Child Trends is a nonprofit, nonpartisan research organization dedicated to improving the lives of children; it collects and analyzes data; conducts, synthesizes, and disseminates research; designs and evaluates programs; and develops and tests promising approaches to research in the field. See <http://www.childtrends.org/index.cfm>.

to analysis. These detailed efforts included the following:

- Three meetings of the KIDS COUNT – Puerto Rico Advisory Committee and Education Subcommittee to discuss, understand, identify, and refine the indicators and the years to use for analysis.
- Four formal meetings with Department of Education staff to solicit data, clarify questions, and learn about data collection methods.
- Extensive communications via phone, email, and fax with the Department of Education to share information about the KIDS COUNT – Puerto Rico Project and to request data or clarify questions.
- Compilation, organization, and review of data by KIDS COUNT – Puerto Rico Project staff by indicator and by year, as well as several drafts of text to describe and analyze the data.
- The hiring of a consultant who worked for four months to compile, sort through, organize, and analyze data at the Island-wide level and by municipality, to supplement the efforts of KIDS COUNT Project staff.

- Consultations with two KIDS COUNT grantees, two consultations with Child Trends, and one meeting with the Annie E. Casey Foundation KIDS COUNT staff to seek advice about how to present the data.

This exhaustive and detailed research process produced several results. First, through the cooperation and support of the Department of Education, and the significant efforts of NCLR consultant Dr. Héctor Cordero-Guzmán, the Project has reviewed and organized data for the following indicators* for the Island and its 78 municipalities, for school years 1995/1996 to 2000/2001:

- Enrollment
- Student's place of residence
- Parental education levels
- Proportion of students promoted or retained in each grade
- High school students in advanced courses
- High school graduates

The organization of these data will permit the KIDS COUNT – Puerto Rico Project to



* This list represents the final set of indicators agreed upon during a meeting of the KIDS COUNT – Puerto Rico Advisory Committee in October 2003. An original set of 26 indicators was identified by the KIDS COUNT – Puerto Rico Advisory Committee as a result of its first meeting in February 2003, further refined in a subsequent meeting of the KIDS COUNT – Puerto Rico Education Subcommittee in July 2003, and then reduced once more to arrive at this list.

develop a detailed analysis and future data book specifically on the condition of education for children in Puerto Rico. An upcoming research study will examine each of these indicators in detail and will help to highlight educational trends; for example, data show that, consistently throughout the researched six-year period, the number of females graduating from high school is higher than the number of young males graduating from high school.

Second, this process helped to build knowledge about the existing sets of data, and permitted staff to identify the following gaps that should be addressed to create a comprehensive picture of public education on the Island:

1. **Validity of data.** In some cases, there were either incomplete data from some schools in some years – which affected the totals by school district, by municipality and by Island – or changes to data collection overall. As an example, the defining categories for the indicator, “student’s place of residence,” have changed during the six-year period, which limits the capacity for trend analysis.
2. **Reliability of data.** There are some extreme data values, which call into question the accuracy and reliability of the data. For example, several schools’ data reflected thousands of promoted females students (32,208) in one grade in one school year.

3. **Maintenance of data.** Data are purged after a certain number of years, which prevents trend analysis and limits understanding of which areas have shown improvements or continue to need strengthening.

The KIDS COUNT – Puerto Rico Project research activities conducted to date point to a great deal of interest and need for accurate, reliable data on a number of social and economic indicators for children. In the case of education, attention must be paid to accurate data collection and the organization of a complete database of school districts and regions so that Puerto Rico can meet the NCLB requirements set by the federal Department of Education, which will ultimately affect federal education funding for the Island.

The specific issues encountered suggest that two sets of remedies can help to strengthen the quality of data both overall and for the Department of Education:

- **Efforts related to Island-wide data collection.** In general, the process undertaken by the KIDS COUNT – Puerto Rico Project suggests that insufficient attention and resources are dedicated to data collection for social science and public policy issues on the Island, as a whole. Data collection and dissemination of accurate information should be a priority for all public agencies. To this end, policy-makers and public agencies must invest human



and financial resources in data collection, organization, and tracking so that Puerto Rico can have a clear picture of the overall condition of its children. Strong messages about the importance of, and the commitment of resources for, data collection and maintenance would help each agency, including the Department of Education, in its own efforts.

- **Infrastructure, resources, and support at the Department of Education.** The Department of Education must develop strategies to facilitate and ensure compliance with data collection by all schools. This

includes identifying who is responsible for data collection within each school and providing technical assistance and additional resources for these functions.

Finally, researchers, social scientists, policy-makers, foundations, community-based agencies, and others who need and use data can facilitate these efforts by lending their voices, support, and expertise to ensure that Puerto Rico can report on the status of its children and other populations with confidence, and is able to invest resources wisely in specific areas to improve the quality of life for Island residents.



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