

# Young Children of Immigrants in the Charlotte Knight Community

Prepared by David Dixon, Julia Gelatt, and Afshin Zilanawala,  
Migration Policy Institute  
for the  
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The Charlotte Knight Community includes Mecklenburg, Cabarrus, and Union Counties in North Carolina and York County, South Carolina (see map).



Data in this fact sheet based on tabulations of 2000 Census data, using IPUMS. Steven Ruggles, Matthew Sobek, Trent Alexander, Catherine A. Fitch, Ronald Goeken, Patricia Kelly Hall, Miriam King, and Chad Ronnander. Integrated Public Use Microdata Series: Version 3.0. Minneapolis, MN: Minnesota Population Center, 2004.

## Growth (1990-2000)

- The population of children of immigrants has experienced rapid growth in the Charlotte Knight Community. Children of immigrants include US- and foreign-born children under 18 with one or more foreign-born parent. While the number of children of natives increased from 232,317 to 276,245 (19 percent) between 1990 and 2000, the number of children of immigrants increased from 11,214 to 35,439 (216 percent).
- During the decade, the number of young children of immigrants (under 9) grew by 242 percent, from 5,694 to 19,499, while the population of young children of natives grew by 18 percent, from 114,936 to 135,094.

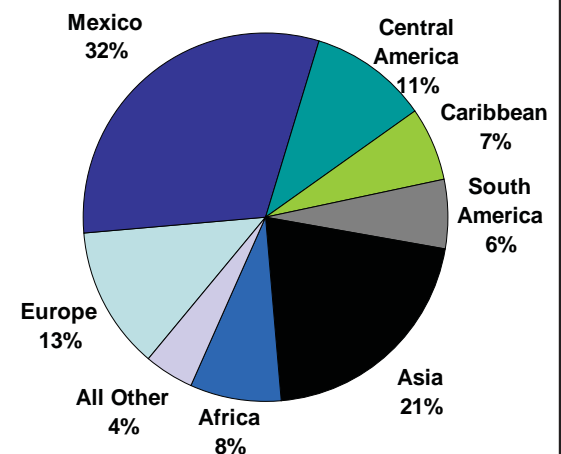
## Demographic Characteristics

- Children of immigrants made up 13 percent of the 139,466 children under 9 in the Charlotte Knight Community.
- Children of immigrants under 9 were more likely to be US born (and, thus citizens) than foreign born (79 versus 21 percent).
- Among young children with foreign-born parents, 32 percent had a parent born in Mexico; 23 percent had a parent born in other parts of Latin America; 21 percent had a parent born in Asia (11 percent in Southeast Asia, 5 percent in East Asia, 5 percent in India/Southwest Asia, and 1 percent in the Middle East); and 13 percent had a parent born in Europe.
- Young children of immigrants were more likely to live in two-parent families than children of natives (87 versus 73 percent).

## Citizenship and Legal Status<sup>1</sup>

- Younger children of immigrants (under age 9) were more likely to be US citizens than older children (9 to 18) in the Charlotte Knight Community. Only 20 percent of young children of immigrants were noncitizens, compared with 36 percent of older children.
- Among the younger children of immigrants, 79 percent were native born, 1 percent were naturalized citizens, 4 percent had LPR status, 3 percent were temporary immigrants, 1 percent were refugees, and 12 percent were unauthorized immigrants. Among their older counterparts, 61 percent were native born, 4 percent were naturalized citizens, 9 percent had LPR status, 5 percent were refugees, 2 percent were temporary immigrants, and 20 percent were unauthorized immigrants.
- While 21 percent of young children of immigrants under 9 had a naturalized-citizen parent, more than three-fourths of young children of immigrants had a noncitizen parent: 28 percent had an LPR parent, 7 percent had a refugee par-

Figure 1. World Region of Birth among Parents of Young Children of Immigrants in the Charlotte Knight Community



Note: Totals may add to greater than 100 percent as a single young child may have parents from two different countries or world regions. Source: 5 percent IPUMS 2000.

1. Imputations of legal status by Jeffrey S. Passel, Jennifer Van Hook, and Frank D. Bean. Estimates of Legal and Unauthorized Foreign-Born Population for the United States and Selected States, Based on Census 2000. Report to the Census Bureau. Washington, DC: The Urban Institute, 2004. [http://www.sabresys.com/i\\_whitepapers.asp](http://www.sabresys.com/i_whitepapers.asp).

ent, 4 percent had a temporary immigrant parent, and 39 percent had an unauthorized immigrant parent. Among older children of immigrants, 34 percent had a naturalized-citizen parent and more than half had a noncitizen parent: 24 percent had an LPR parent, 11 percent had a refugee parent, 2 percent had a temporary immigrant parent, and 29 percent had an unauthorized immigrant parent.

- Most young children of immigrants under 9 in the Charlotte Knight Community (roughly 64 percent) lived in mixed-status families with one or more noncitizen parents. (A mixed-status family includes adults who are noncitizens and children who are US citizens.)

### Parent Education and Language

- In the Charlotte Knight Community, young children of immigrants (under 9) were less likely to have a parent with at least a bachelor's degree than their counterparts in native families (33 versus 42 percent). Nationwide, only 27 percent of young children of immigrants had a parent with at least a bachelor's degree. At the same time, 26 percent of young children of immigrants in the Charlotte Knight Community had parents with less than a high-school education (versus only 8 percent of children of natives).
- Fifty-three percent of children of immigrants under 9 had one or more limited English proficient (LEP) parent,<sup>2</sup> while 49 percent of their older counterparts (9 to 18) had a LEP parent. Roughly 45 percent of native born and 85 percent of foreign-born young children of immigrants had at least one LEP parent. In contrast, a very small share (2 percent) of young children of natives lived in families in which either parent was LEP.
- About one-third (35 percent) of young children of immigrants lived in "linguistically isolated" households in which all persons age 14 and over were LEP. In contrast, nearly one out of every five older children of immigrants lived in such households. Foreign-born children of immigrants were more than twice as likely to live in linguistically isolated households as were US-born children of immigrants (67 versus 26 percent). Less than 1 percent of children of natives lived in such households.

### Work and Wage

- One out of three young children of immigrants (under 9) lived in families in which both parents were in the labor force, compared to 42 percent of young children of natives. However, young foreign-born children of immigrants were less likely to have both parents in the labor force than US-born children of immigrants (20 versus 36 percent).
- The median hourly wage for native full-time year-round<sup>3</sup> working parents of young children was about \$18 in 1999 for the Charlotte Knight Community. For parents of young children of immigrants, the median hourly wage was \$14.
- Young children of immigrants in the Charlotte Knight Community were much more likely to have fathers who were

Figure 2. Top Five Occupations among Young Children of Immigrants' Parents

United States		Charlotte Knight Community	
Occupation	Percent of young children of immigrants	Occupation	Percent of young children of immigrants
<b>Father's Occupation</b>		<b>Father's Occupation</b>	
Production	14.2	Construction trades	18.6
Construction trades	13.1	Production	14.0
Transportation and material moving	10.3	Management	13.1
Management	8.5	Transportation and material moving	7.0
Sales	7.6	Sales	6.7
<b>Mother's Occupation</b>		<b>Mother's Occupation</b>	
Office and administrative support	17.1	Production	18.0
Production	13.3	Office and administrative support	12.7
Sales	11	Sales	12.2
Grounds cleaning/maintenance	7.4	Food preparation and serving	8.8
Food preparation and serving	6.8	Management	7.6

Source: 5 percent IPUMS 2000.

2. Limited English Proficiency (LEP) is defined here as those who report speaking English "less than very well" on the census questionnaire.

3. Full-time year-round workers are those who work 35 or more hours a week, 50 or more weeks a year.

active in management and construction fields than young children of immigrants nationally (see Figure 2). However, both groups were likely to have fathers who worked in production, transportation, and sales-related occupations.

- While young children of immigrants in the Charlotte Knight Community were more likely to have mothers who were employed in management and production fields than young children of immigrants nationally, both groups were likely to have mothers who worked in office and administrative support, food preparation/serving, and sales occupations.

### Poverty and Income

- According to Figure 3, young children of immigrants (under 9) were almost twice as likely to live below the federal poverty line as children of natives (19 versus 11 percent).
- Forty-six percent (8,436) of children of immigrants under 9 in the Charlotte Knight Community lived in low-income families (with incomes less than twice the federal poverty level), compared with 27 percent of children of natives. Foreign-born young children of immigrants were more likely to live in low-income families than their US-born counterparts (66 versus 41 percent).

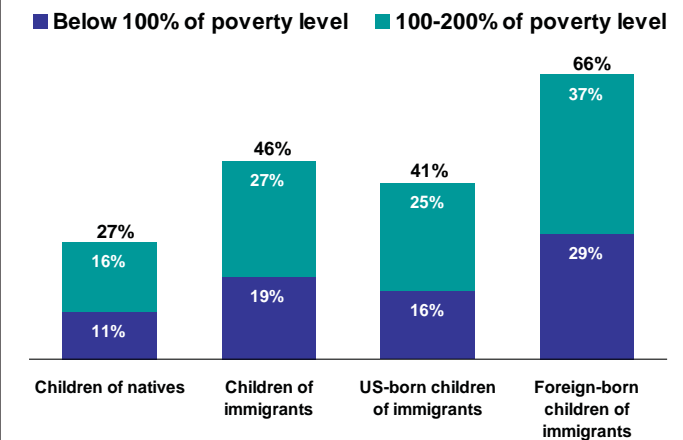
### Hardship and Benefit Use

- Among low-income families, young children of immigrants (under 9) were much less likely to live in families that received public benefits: only 2 percent of children of immigrants under 9 in such families received public assistance (including TANF) from a state or local welfare office in 1999, compared to 13 percent of their counterparts in native families. US-born and foreign-born young children of immigrants had nearly similar public assistance receipt (2 percent each).
- In 1999, about 0.2 percent of young children living in low-income immigrant families received Supplemental Security Income (SSI) versus 1.0 percent of those in native families.

### Conclusions

- While only 13 percent of all young children under 9 in the Charlotte Knight Community were children of immigrants, the number of young children of immigrants more than tripled between 1990 and 2000, while the number of young children of natives decreased by 18 percent.
- Compared to young children of immigrants in North Carolina as a whole, a higher share of young children of immigrants in the Charlotte Knight Community had a parent born in Latin America (23 percent in Charlotte compared to 19 percent in North Carolina) and a lower share had a parent born in Mexico (32 percent in Charlotte versus 41 percent in North Carolina). Shares of young children with parents born in other parts of the world were comparable between the Charlotte Knight Community and the state of North Carolina as a whole.
- While 80 percent of young children of immigrants in the Charlotte Knight Community were citizens, more than three-quarters of young children of immigrants had a noncitizen parent and almost 40 percent had an unauthorized immigrant parent. Consequently, nearly two-thirds (64 percent) of young children of immigrants lived in mixed-status families. This may have led to the lower rates of benefits receipt among young children of immigrants, as legal and unauthorized noncitizen parents may have been reluctant to use public benefits for which their citizen children were eligible.
- Young children of immigrants were less likely than young children of natives to have a parent with a bachelor's or higher degree and were more likely to have a parent without a high-school diploma. Young children of immigrants

Figure 3. Poverty among Young Children of Immigrants in the Charlotte Knight Community



Source: 5 percent IPUMS 2000.

with Asian origins were much more likely to have a parent with a college degree than those with Mexican origins (45 versus 6 percent). About 30 percent of those with a parent born in other parts of Latin America had a parent with a college degree. Conversely, those with a parent born in Mexico were more likely to have parents without a high-school diploma than those with an Asian parent (60 versus 13 percent). Twenty-two percent of young children with a parent from Latin America had a parent without a high-school diploma.

- Over half of young children of immigrants in the Charlotte Knight Community had a LEP parent, a slightly smaller share than at the national level (59 percent). Additionally, over one in three young children of immigrants lived in linguistically isolated households, about the same as at the national level (32 percent). Limited English skills were particularly pronounced among young children of immigrants with a parent from Mexico, with 80 percent living with a LEP parent and 57 percent living in linguistically isolated households, versus those with a parent from Asia (52 and 31 percent respectively).
- Young children of immigrants in the Charlotte Knight Community were much more likely to live in low-income families than young children of natives. However, a wide gap existed between young children of immigrants of Mexican and Asian origin: Eighty percent of young children with a parent born in Mexico lived in a low-income family versus only 23 percent of those with an Asian parent. Among young children of immigrants with a full-time year-round working parent, the parental median hourly wage for those with a parent born in Mexico was \$9, compared to \$17 for those with a parent born in Asia.

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