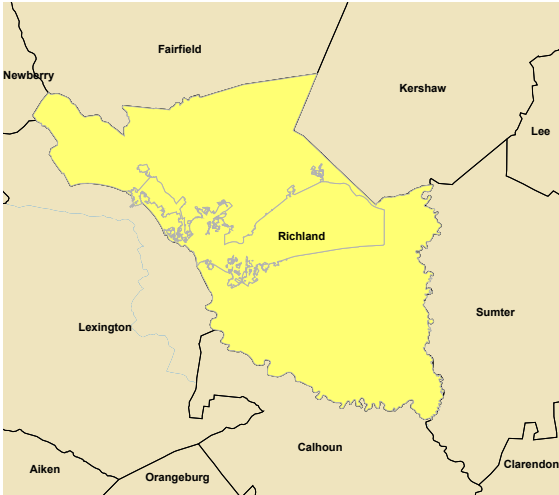


Young Children of Immigrants in the Columbia Knight Community

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The Columbia Knight Community encompasses Richland 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)

- Children of immigrants were the fastest-growing component of the child population in the Columbia 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 63,303 to 70,410 (11 percent) between 1990 and 2000, the number of children of immigrants increased from 2,901 to 5,386 (86 percent).
- During the decade, the number of young children of immigrants (under 9) grew by 91 percent, from 1,353 to 2,581, while the population of young children of natives increased by 5 percent, from 32,196 to 33,789.

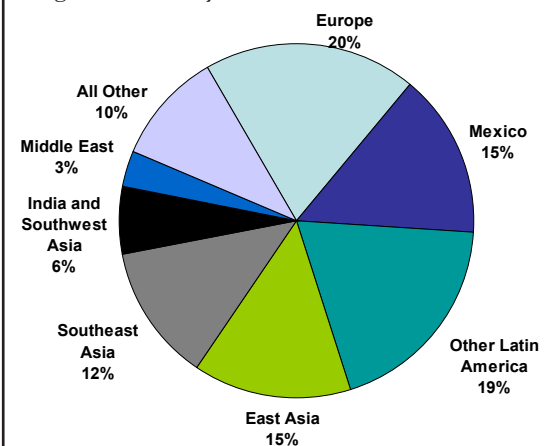
Demographic Characteristics

- Children of immigrants made up 7 percent of the 36,370 children under 9 in the Columbia 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 of immigrants in the Columbia Knight Community, 37 percent had a parent who was born in Asia (15 percent in East Asia, 12 percent in Southeast Asia, 6 percent in India/Southwest Asia, and 3 percent in the Middle East), while 15 percent had a parent who was born in Mexico, 19 percent had a parent born elsewhere in Latin America, and 20 percent had a parent born in Europe.
- Young children of immigrants were more likely to live in two-parent families than children of natives (90 versus 62 percent).

Citizenship and Legal Status¹

- Younger children of immigrants (under age 9) were nearly equally likely to be US citizens as older children (9 to 18) in the Columbia Knight Community. One out of five young children of immigrants were noncitizens (versus 21 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, 8 percent were temporary immigrants, 2 percent were refugees, and 6 percent were unauthorized immigrants. Among their older counterparts, 72 percent were native born, 7 percent were naturalized citizens, 7 percent had LPR status, 8 percent were refugees, 1 percent were temporary immigrants, and 5 percent were unauthorized immigrants.
- While 30 percent of young children of immigrants under 9 had a naturalized-citizen parent, more than two-thirds of young children of immigrants had a noncitizen parent: 34 percent had an LPR parent, 6 percent had a refugee parent, 10 percent had a temporary immigrant parent, and 20 percent had an unauthorized immigrant parent. Among older

Figure 1. World Region of Birth among Parents of Young Children of Immigrants in the Columbia 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.

children of immigrants, 57 percent had a naturalized-citizen parent and less than half had a noncitizen parent: 25 percent had an LPR parent, 9 percent had a refugee parent, 1 percent had a temporary immigrant parent, and 8 percent had an unauthorized immigrant parent.

- Most young children of immigrants under 9 in the Columbia Knight Community (roughly 53 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 Columbia Knight Community, more than half (51 percent) of young children of immigrants (under 9) had a parent with at least a bachelor's degree (versus 38 percent of children of natives). Nationwide, only 27 percent of young children of immigrants had a parent with at least a bachelor's degree. At the same time, 10 percent of young children of immigrants in the Columbia Knight Community had parents with less than a high-school education (versus 8 percent of children of natives).
- Despite high parental education levels, 29 percent of children of immigrants under 9 had one or more limited English proficient (LEP) parent,² while 38 percent of their older counterparts (9 to 18) had a LEP parent. Almost a quarter (23 percent) of native-born and almost half (49 percent) of foreign-born young children of immigrants had at least one LEP parent. In contrast, a very small share (2 percent) of children of natives lived in families in which either parent was LEP.
- Seventeen percent of young children of immigrants lived in “linguistically isolated” households in which all persons age 14 and over were LEP. In contrast, 9 percent of older children of immigrants lived in such households. Foreign-born children of immigrants were three times as likely to live in linguistically isolated households as were US-born children of immigrants (37 versus 12 percent). Less than one percent of children of natives lived in such households.

Work and Wage

- Forty-one percent of young children of immigrants (under 9) lived in families in which both parents were in the labor force, a level comparable to 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 (24 versus 45 percent).
- The median hourly wage for full-time year-round³ native working parents of young children was about \$15 in 1999 for the Columbia Knight Community. For young children of immigrants, the median parental hourly wage was \$16, \$2 more than the national average.
- Young children of immigrants in the Columbia Knight Community were much more likely to have fathers who were active in computer/mathematical and installation maintenance and repair fields than young children of im-

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

United States		Columbia Knight Community	
Occupation	Percent of young children of immigrants	Occupation	Percent of young children of immigrants
Father's Occupation		Father's Occupation	
Production	14.2	Computer and mathematical	12.1
Construction trades	13.1	Management	10.4
Transportation and material moving	10.3	Production	9.6
Management	8.5	Installation maintenance and repair	9.4
Sales	7.6	Construction trades	8.7
Mother's Occupation		Mother's Occupation	
Office and administrative support	17.1	Office and administrative support	21.9
Production	13.3	Production	12.4
Sales	11	Sales	10.2
Grounds cleaning/maintenance	7.4	Healthcare support	9.2
Food preparation and serving	6.8	Education training and library	9.1

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.

migrants nationally (see Figure 2). However, both groups were likely to have fathers who worked in production, management, and construction-related occupations.

- While young children of immigrants in the Columbia Knight Community were more likely to have mothers who were employed in office and administrative support, healthcare support, and education/library services than young children of immigrants nationally, both groups were likely to have mothers who worked in production and sales occupations.

Poverty and Income

- According to Figure 3, both young children of immigrants and of natives (under 9) had similar likelihood of living below the federal poverty line (18 versus 20 percent).
- Forty percent (1,026) of children of immigrants under 9 in the Columbia Knight Community lived in low-income families (with incomes less than twice the federal poverty level), compared with 38 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 (51 versus 37 percent).

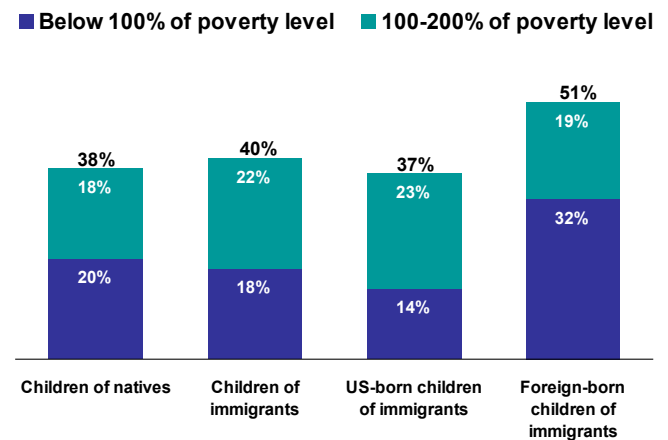
Hardship and Benefit Use

- Among low-income families, young children of immigrants were much less likely to receive public benefits: 4 percent of children of immigrants under 9 received public assistance (including TANF) from a state or local welfare office in 1999, compared to 11 percent of their counterparts in native families.

Conclusions

- Although only 7 percent of all young children (under 9) in the Columbia Knight Community were children of immigrants, the number of young children of immigrants saw rapid growth (more than 90 percent) between 1990 and 2000, while the number of young children of natives grew just 5 percent.
- In the Columbia Knight Community, a much higher share of young children had a parent born in Asia than in Mexico (37 versus 15 percent). For South Carolina as a whole, in contrast, a larger share of young children had a parent born in Mexico than in Asia (31 versus 28 percent).
- While four out of five young children of immigrants in the Columbia Knight Community were citizens, about 70 percent had a noncitizen parent. Nearly all young children (96 percent) with a parent from Mexico had a noncitizen parent, compared to 57 percent of young children with a parent from Asia, and 63 percent for both young children with a parent from Europe and young children with a parent from Latin America (excluding Mexico).
- Over half of young children of immigrants in the Columbia Knight Community had a parent with a four-year college degree, a substantially greater share than among young children of natives or among young children of immigrants at the national level. At the same time, young children of immigrants were slightly more likely than young children of natives, but substantially less likely than young children of immigrants nationwide, to have a parent without a high-school degree.
- Young children of immigrants with East Asian origins were more likely to have a parent with a college degree than those with Mexican origins (86 versus 40 percent), while those with parents from Southeast Asia were least likely to have a parent with a college degree (19 percent). However, the educational attainment of families with one or more parent from Mexico was much higher than at the national level: Nationally, only 6 percent of young children with a parent from Mexico had a parent with a bachelor's or higher degree.

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



- Only about 29 percent of young children of immigrants in the Columbia Knight Community had a LEP parent, compared to 59 percent of young children of immigrants nationwide. Additionally, 17 percent of young children of immigrants in the Columbia Knight Community lived in linguistically isolated households, compared to 32 percent of young children of immigrants nationwide. Limited English skills were particularly pronounced among young children of immigrants with Mexican and Asian heritage: 40 percent of those with a Mexican parent and 46 percent of those with an Asian parent lived with a LEP parent (versus 12 percent of those with a European parent and 18 percent of those with a parent from other parts of Latin America). Looking at smaller geographic breakdowns shows that those with a parent from East Asia were substantially more likely than those with a parent from Southeast Asia to have a LEP parent (62 versus 42 percent).
- Forty percent of young children of immigrants in the Columbia Knight Community lived in low-income families, a share only slightly greater than that for young children of natives (38 percent). However, economic circumstances varied among young children of immigrants with different heritage: 57 percent of young children with a parent born in Mexico and 51 percent of those with a parent born in other parts of Latin America lived in low-income families versus 49 percent of those with a parent from East Asia and 40 percent of those with a parent from Southeast Asia. Only 17 percent of young children with a parent born in Europe lived in a low-income family.
- Among young children of immigrants with a full-time year-round working parent, those with a parent born in Mexico or other parts of Latin America had lower median hourly parental wages than those with a parent born in any part of Asia (\$15 and \$12 versus \$24). Among young children with a parent born in Europe, the median hourly parental wage was \$15.

The authors would like to thank Shirin Hakimzadeh for her invaluable assistance on this project and Michael Fix for his editorial guidance.

