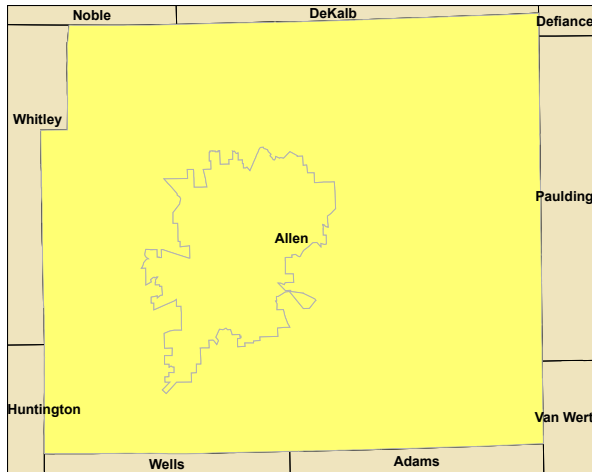


# Young Children of Immigrants in the Fort Wayne Knight Community

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The Fort Wayne Knight Community encompasses Allen County, Indiana (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 Fort Wayne 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 slightly from 82,261 to 85,152 (4 percent) between 1990 and 2000, the number of children of immigrants nearly doubled from 3,106 to 6,061 (95 percent).
- During the decade, the number of young children of immigrants (under 9) grew by 99 percent, from 1,352 to 2,685, while the population of young children of natives decreased by 2 percent, from 40,920 to 40,077.

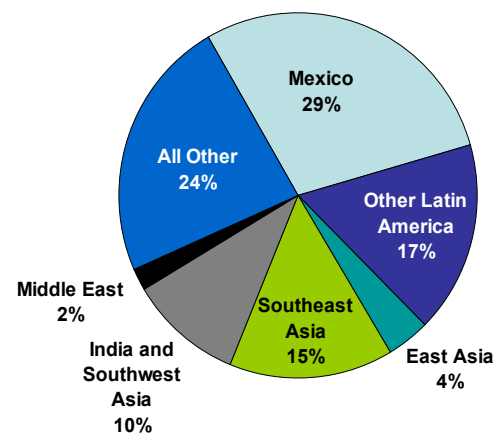
## Demographic Characteristics

- Children of immigrants made up 6 percent of the 42,762 children under 9 in the Fort Wayne 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, 29 percent had a parent born in Mexico; 31 percent had a parent born in Asia (15 percent in Southeast Asia, 10 percent in India/Southwest Asia, 4 percent in East Asia, and 2 percent in the Middle East); and 17 percent had a parent born in other parts of Latin America.
- Young children of immigrants were more likely to live in two-parent families than children of natives (87 versus 70 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 Fort Wayne Knight Community. Only 19 percent of young children of immigrants were noncitizens, compared with 33 percent of older children.
- Among the younger children of immigrants, 79 percent were native born, 2 percent were naturalized citizens, 5 percent had LPR status, 1 percent were temporary immigrants, 8 percent were refugees, and 5 percent were unauthorized immigrants. Among their older counterparts, 64 percent were native born, 3 percent were naturalized citizens, 5 percent had LPR status, 11 percent were refugees, 4 percent were temporary immigrants, and 13 percent were unauthorized immigrants.
- While 32 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: 35 percent had an LPR parent, while 12 percent had a refugee parent, 1 percent had a temporary immigrant parent, and 21 percent of these children had an unauthorized immigrant

Figure 1. World Region of Birth among Parents of Young Children of Immigrants in the Fort Wayne 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).

parent. Among older children of immigrants, 40 percent had a naturalized-citizen parent and more than half had a noncitizen parent: 28 percent had an LPR parent, while 12 percent had a refugee parent, 4 percent had a temporary immigrant parent, and 16 percent of these children had an unauthorized immigrant parent.

- Many young children of immigrants under 9 in the Fort Wayne Knight Community (roughly 46 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 Fort Wayne Knight Community, 42 percent of young children of immigrants (under 9) had a parent with at least a bachelor's degree, versus 31 percent of their counterparts in native families. Nationwide, only 27 percent of young children of immigrants had a parent with at least a bachelor's degree. At the same time, 24 percent of young children of immigrants in the Fort Wayne Knight Community had parents with less than a high-school education (versus only 9 percent of children of natives).
- Despite high parental education levels, slightly more than half of children of immigrants under 9 had one or more limited English proficient (LEP) parent,<sup>2</sup> comparable to the share of their older counterparts (9 to 18) who had a LEP parent. Forty-six percent of native-born and 70 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.
- Nearly one out of every three young children of immigrants lived in "linguistically isolated" households in which all persons age 14 and over were LEP. In contrast, 12 percent of 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 (60 versus 27 percent). Less than 1 percent of children of natives lived in such households.

### Work and Wage

- Forty-five percent of young children of immigrants (under 9) lived in families in which both parents were in the labor force, compared to 39 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 (24 versus 51 percent).
- The median hourly wage for native full-time year-round<sup>3</sup> working parents of young children was about \$16 in 1999 for the Fort Wayne Knight Community. For parents of young children of immigrants, the median hourly wage was \$14.

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

United States		Fort Wayne 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	Production	32.1
Construction trades	13.1	Construction trades	10.0
Transportation and material moving	10.3	Transportation and material moving	9.3
Management	8.5	Architecture and engineering	7.9
Sales	7.6	Installation maintenance and repair	6.8
<b>Mother's Occupation</b>		<b>Mother's Occupation</b>	
Office and administrative support	17.1	Production	24.5
Production	13.3	Office and administrative support	19.4
Sales	11	Food preparation and serving	16.4
Grounds cleaning/maintenance	7.4	Sales	8.6
Food preparation and serving	6.8	Healthcare practitioners	8.5

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.

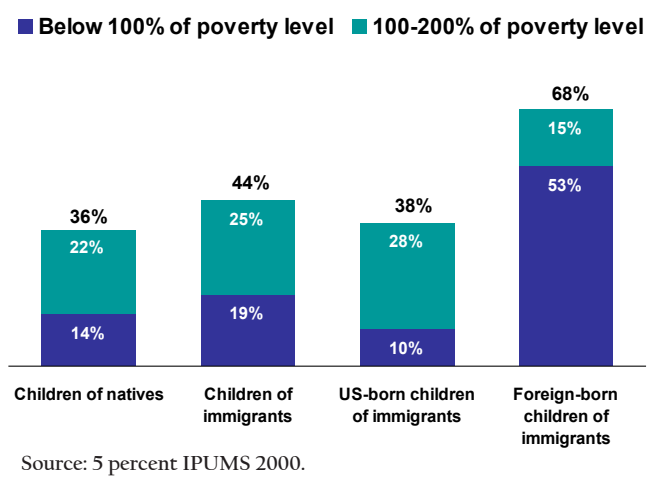
3. Full-time year-round workers are those who work 35 or more hours a week, 50 or more weeks a year.

- Young children of immigrants in the Fort Wayne Knight Community were much more likely to have fathers who were active in production, installation/maintenance, and architecture/engineering fields than young children of immigrants nationally (see Figure 2). However, both groups were likely to have fathers who worked in transportation and construction-related occupations.
- While young children of immigrants in the Fort Wayne Knight Community were more likely to have mothers who were employed in production, food preparation/serving, and healthcare fields than young children of immigrants nationally, both groups were likely to have mothers who worked in office and administrative support and sales occupations.

### Poverty and Income

- According to Figure 3, young children of immigrants (under 9) were more likely to live below the federal poverty line than children of natives (19 versus 14 percent).
- Forty-four percent (1,168) of children of immigrants under 9 in the Fort Wayne Knight Community lived in low-income families (with incomes less than twice the federal poverty level), compared with 36 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 (68 versus 38 percent).

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



### Hardship and Benefit Use

- Among low-income families, young children of immigrants (under 9) were slightly more likely to live in families that received public benefits: 11 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 8 percent of their counterparts in native families. US-born young children of immigrants were less likely than foreign-born young children of immigrants to receive public assistance (10 versus 14 percent).

### Conclusions

- Only 6 percent of young children under 9 in the Fort Wayne Knight Community were children of immigrants. However, the number of young children of immigrants nearly doubled between 1990 and 2000, while the number of young children of natives decreased by 2 percent over the same period.
- In contrast to Indiana as a whole, slightly more young children of immigrants in the Fort Wayne Knight Community had a parent born in Asia (31 percent) than had a parent born in Mexico (29 percent). At the state level, 45 percent of young children of immigrants had a parent born in Mexico and just 22 percent had a parent from Asia. Young children of immigrants in the Fort Wayne Knight Community were also more likely than young children of immigrants in Indiana as a whole to have a parent from other parts of Latin America (17 versus 9 percent).
- While 79 percent of young children of immigrants in the Fort Wayne Knight Community were citizens, more than two-thirds had a noncitizen parent. As a result, nearly half (46 percent) of young children of immigrants in the community lived in mixed-status families. However, this share was much smaller than at the national level, where about two-thirds of young children of immigrants lived in mixed-status families.
- While educational levels of parents of young children in the Fort Wayne Knight Community were high overall, more young children of immigrants had a parent with a bachelor's or higher degree than did young children of natives. At the same time, young children of immigrants were more likely than young children of natives to have a parent with less than a high-school degree.

- Young children of immigrants with a parent from India/Southwest Asia (51 percent) or Southeast Asia (47 percent) were more likely than those with a parent from Latin America (41 percent) and much more likely than those with a parent from Mexico (5 percent) to have a parent with a college degree. Conversely, those with a parent born in Mexico were more likely to have a parent lacking a high-school degree than those with a parent from India/Southwest Asia, Southeast Asia, or other parts of Latin America.
- Just over half of young children of immigrants in the Fort Wayne Knight Community had a LEP parent, compared to about 59 percent of young children of immigrants nationwide. About one out of three young children of immigrants lived in a linguistically isolated household, comparable to the national average. Limited English skills were particularly pronounced among young children with a parent from Mexico, with 86 percent living with a LEP parent and over half living in a linguistically isolated household, versus those with a parent from Asia (42 percent had a LEP parent and 30 percent lived in a linguistically isolated household).
- Young children of immigrants in the Fort Wayne Knight Community were somewhat more likely to live in low-income families than young children of natives. However, a substantial gap existed between young children of immigrants with parents from different parts of Asia: 62 percent of young children with a parent born in India/Southwest Asia lived in a low-income family compared to just 12 percent of those with a parent from Southeast Asia. Fifty-three percent of young children with a parent from Mexico lived in a low-income family.

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