

# Young Children of Immigrants in the Long Beach Knight Community

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While the Long Beach Knight Community includes the cities of Long Beach and Signal Hill in Los Angeles County, California, nearby areas were included in the analysis below due to limitations in the geographic areas available in census microdata (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)

- In Los Angeles County, children of immigrants were the fastest-growing component of the child population. While the number of children of natives decreased from 998,981 to 941,438 (6 percent) between 1990 and 2000, the number of children of immigrants increased from 1,275,567 to 1,632,628 (28 percent).
- During the decade, the number of young children of immigrants (under 9) in the county grew by 23 percent, from 656,389 to 807,680, while the population of young children of natives decreased by 13 percent, from 536,256 to 468,495.

Note: The above growth section describes all of Los Angeles County, while the remainder of the fact sheet covers just the Long Beach Knight Community. Analysis of the growth in the young child population in the Long Beach Knight Community was not possible because of the incomparability of 1990 and 2000 census microdata describing this community.



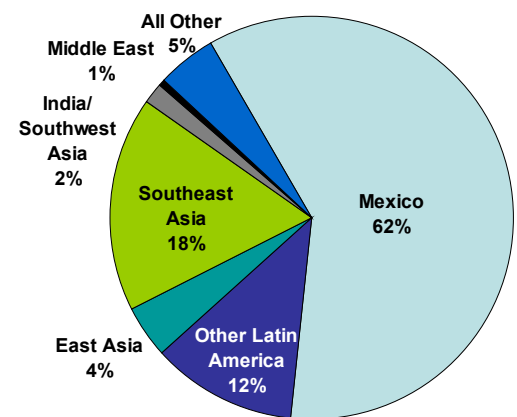
## Demographic Characteristics

- Children of immigrants made up 57 percent of the 80,093 children under 9 in the Long Beach Knight Community.
- Children of immigrants under 9 were more likely to be US born (and, thus citizens) than foreign born (90 versus 10 percent).
- Among young children with foreign-born parents, 62 percent had a parent born in Mexico, while 25 percent had a parent born in Asia (18 percent in Southeast Asia, 4 percent in East Asia, 2 percent in India/Southwest Asia, and 1 percent in the Middle East).
- Young children of immigrants were more likely to live in two-parent families than young children of natives (71 versus 52 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 Long Beach Knight Community. Only 8 percent of young children of immigrants were noncitizens, compared with 26 percent of older children.
- Among the younger children of immigrants, 90 percent were native born, 1 percent were naturalized citizens, 2 percent had LPR status, 1 percent were temporary immigrants, less than 1 percent were refugees, and 5 percent were unauthorized immigrants. Among their older counterparts, 71 percent were native born, 3 percent were naturalized citizens, 9 percent had LPR status, 3 percent were refugees, 1 percent were temporary immigrants, and 12 percent were unauthorized immigrants.
- While 23 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: 40 percent had an LPR parent, 6 percent had a refugee par-

Figure 1. World Region of Birth among Parents of Young Children of Immigrants in the Long Beach 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, 1 percent had a temporary immigrant parent, and 30 percent had an unauthorized immigrant parent. Among older children of immigrants, 30 percent had a naturalized-citizen parent and more than half had a noncitizen parent: 36 percent had an LPR parent, 10 percent had a refugee parent, 1 percent had a temporary immigrant parent, and 23 percent had an unauthorized immigrant parent.

- Most young children of immigrants under 9 in the Long Beach Knight Community (roughly 71 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 Long Beach Knight Community, immigrant parents had significantly less formal education than did native-born parents. Forty-seven percent of young children of immigrants (under 9) had a parent with less than a high-school diploma (versus 16 percent of children of natives). Moreover, children of immigrants were half as likely to have a parent with a bachelor's degree as children of natives (15 versus 30 percent).
- Seventy-one percent of children of immigrants under 9 had at least one limited English proficient (LEP) parent,<sup>2</sup> while 77 percent of their older counterparts (9 to 18) had a LEP parent. Seventy percent of native-born and 83 percent of foreign-born young children of immigrants had at least one LEP parent. In contrast, only a small share (4 percent) of young children of natives lived in families in which either parent was LEP.
- Nearly 40 percent of young children of immigrants lived in “linguistically isolated” households in which all persons age 14 and over were LEP. In contrast, one out of every four older children of immigrants lived in such households. Foreign-born children of immigrants were more likely to live in linguistically isolated households than were US-born children of immigrants (58 versus 37 percent). Two percent of children of natives lived in such households.

### Work and Wage

- Twenty-four percent of young children of immigrants (under 9) lived in families in which both parents were in the labor force, versus 32 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 (13 versus 25 percent).
- The median hourly wage for native full-time year-round<sup>3</sup> working parents of young children was about \$19 in 1999 for the Long Beach Knight Community. For parents of young children of immigrants, the median hourly wage was \$13, comparable to immigrant parents' national average (\$14).
- Young children of immigrants in the Long Beach Knight Community were much more likely to have fathers who were active in installation maintenance and repair, production, transportation, and office and administrative fields than young children of immigrants nationally (see Figure 2). However, both groups were likely to have fathers who

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

United States		Long Beach 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	18.1
Construction trades	13.1	Transportation and material moving	14.6
Transportation and material moving	10.3	Construction trades	12.0
Management	8.5	Installation maintenance and repair	9.8
Sales	7.6	Office and administrative support	8.2
<b>Mother's Occupation</b>		<b>Mother's Occupation</b>	
Office and administrative support	17.1	Office and administrative support	19.8
Production	13.3	Production	16.3
Sales	11	Sales	11.9
Grounds cleaning/maintenance	7.4	Grounds cleaning/maintenance	8.2
Food preparation and serving	6.8	Personal care and service	7.0

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.

worked in construction-related occupations.

- While young children of immigrants in the Long Beach Knight Community were more likely to have mothers who were employed in personal care/service-related fields than young children of immigrants nationally, both groups were likely to have mothers who worked in office and administrative support, production, grounds maintenance, 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 (35 versus 25 percent).
- Sixty-six percent (30,103) of children of immigrants under 9 in the Long Beach Knight Community lived in low-income families (with incomes less than twice the federal poverty level), compared with 43 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 (74 versus 65 percent).

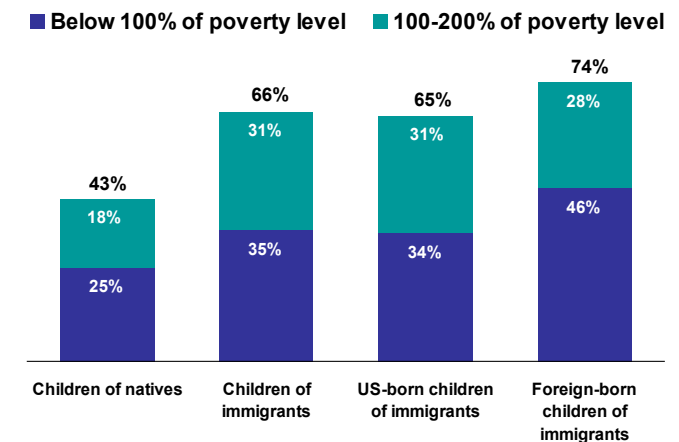
### Hardship and Benefit Use

- Among low-income families, young children of immigrants (under 9) were less likely to live in families that received public benefits: 21 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 35 percent of their counterparts in native families. US-born and foreign-born young children of immigrants had somewhat similar public assistance receipt (21 versus 17 percent).
- In 1999, about 3.1 percent of young children living in low-income immigrant families received Supplemental Security Income (SSI) versus 4.0 percent of those in low-income native families. Among young children in low-income immigrant families, 3.0 percent of those born in the United States and 3.9 percent of those born abroad lived in families that received SSI.

### Conclusions

- More than half of all young children under 9 in the Long Beach Knight Community were children of immigrants.
- While 92 percent of young children of immigrants in the Long Beach Knight Community were citizens, three-quarters had a noncitizen parent. Consequently, mixed-status families were very common among young children of immigrants, more so than at the national level: 71 percent of young children of immigrants in the Long Beach Knight Community lived in a mixed-status family, versus 65 percent at the national level. Legal and unauthorized noncitizen parents may have been reluctant to use public benefits for which their citizen children were eligible, leading to the lower rates of benefit use among young children of immigrants.
- Young children of immigrants in the Long Beach Knight Community were less likely than young children of immigrants nationally to have highly educated parents. Only 15 percent had a parent with at least a bachelor's college degree, compared to 27 percent of young children of immigrants nationally. Nearly half of young children of immigrants had a parent without a high-school diploma, compared to about one-third nationwide. Following a common trend, young children with a parent from Asia were more likely to have a college-educated parent and less likely to have parents without a high-school degree than young children from Mexico.
- Following national trends, young children of immigrants were less likely to have two parents in the labor force than

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



young children of natives, and had a lower parental median hourly wage than young children of natives. However, wages varied by parents' place of origin. Among young children of immigrants with a full-time year-round working parent, those with a parent born in Asia had a parental median hourly wage almost twice that of young children with a parent born in Mexico (\$20 versus \$12). Consequently, young children with a parent from Mexico were much more likely than young children with a parent from Asia to live below the poverty line (42 versus 23 percent) and more likely to live in a low-income family (78 versus 44 percent).

- A full two-thirds of young children of immigrants in the Long Beach Knight Community lived in low-income families, compared to about half of young children of immigrants nationwide.
- About 71 percent of young children of immigrants in the Long Beach Knight Community had a LEP parent. Additionally, 39 percent of young children of immigrants lived in linguistically isolated households. These rates exceeded those of young children of immigrants nationally (59 and 32 percent). Reflecting national trends, limited English skills were particularly pronounced among young children with a parent from Mexico, with 81 percent living with a LEP parent versus 58 percent of young children with an Asian-born parent.

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