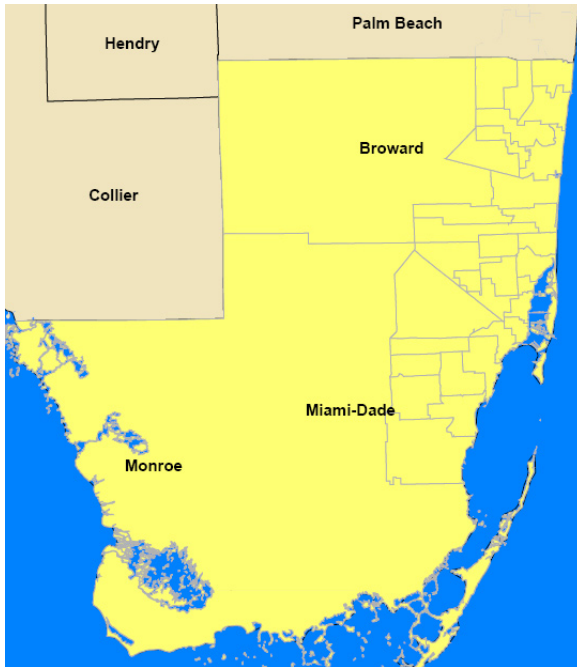


Young Children of Immigrants in the Miami Knight Community

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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.

While the Miami Knight Community includes Miami-Dade and Broward Counties in Florida, Monroe County was also included in the analysis below due to limitations in the geographic units available in census microdata (see map).

Growth (1990-2000)

- Children of immigrants were the fastest-growing component of the child population in the Miami 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 only 333,000 to 358,662 (8 percent) between 1990 and 2000, the number of children of immigrants increased from 333,333 to 515,876 (55 percent).
- During the decade, the number of young children of immigrants (under 9) grew by 41 percent, from 167,720 to 235,901, while the population of young children of natives decreased by 1 percent, from 173,832 to 172,500.

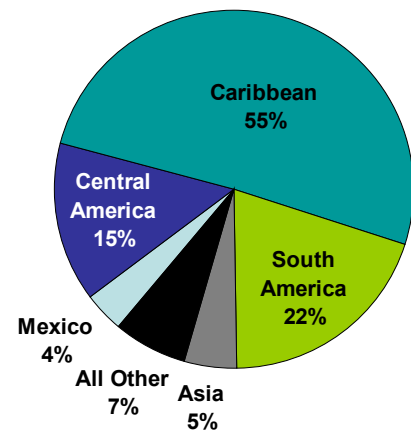
Demographic Characteristics

- Children of immigrants made up 57 percent of the 437,822 children under 9 in the Miami Knight Community.
- Children of immigrants under 9 were more likely to be US born (and, thus citizens) than foreign born (87 versus 13 percent).
- Nearly nine out of ten young children with foreign-born parents had a parent born in Latin America: 55 percent in the Caribbean (including 31 percent born in Cuba), 22 percent in South America, and 15 percent in Central America. Five percent of young children had a parent born in Asia, and five percent had a parent born in Europe.
- Young children of immigrants were more likely to live in two-parent families than children of natives (77 versus 57 percent).

Citizenship and Legal Status¹

- Younger children of immigrants (under age 9) were more likely to be US citizens than older children (9 to 18) in the Miami Knight Community. Only 12 percent of young children of immigrants were noncitizens, compared with 30 percent of older children.
- Among the younger children of immigrants, 87 percent were native born, 1 percent were naturalized citizens, 3 percent had LPR status, 1 percent were temporary immigrants, 3 percent were refugees, and 5 percent were unauthorized immigrants. Among their older counterparts, 66 percent were native born, 4 percent were naturalized citizens, 9 percent had LPR status, 7 percent were refugees, 1 percent were temporary immigrants, and 12 percent were unauthorized immigrants.
- While 34 percent of young children of immigrants under 9 had a naturalized-citizen parent, two-thirds of young

Figure 1. World Region of Birth among Parents of Young Children of Immigrants in the Miami 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 had a noncitizen parent: 28 percent had an LPR parent, while 16 percent had a refugee parent, 2 percent had a temporary immigrant parent, and 21 percent of these children had an unauthorized immigrant parent. Among older children of immigrants, 43 percent had a naturalized-citizen parent and more than half had a noncitizen parent: 23 percent had an LPR parent, while 14 percent had a refugee parent, 1 percent had a temporary immigrant parent, and 19 percent of these children had an unauthorized immigrant parent.

- Most young children of immigrants under 9 in the Miami Knight Community (roughly 56 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 Miami Knight Community, immigrant parents' education levels resembled those of native parents. Eighteen percent of young children of immigrants (under 9) had parents with less than a high-school education (versus 14 percent of children of natives). Twenty-nine percent of young children of immigrants had a parent with at least a bachelor's degree (versus 32 percent of children of natives). Nationwide, only 27 percent of young children of immigrants had a parent with at least a bachelor's degree.
- One out of two children of immigrants under 9 has one or more limited English proficient (LEP) parent,² while 54 percent of their older counterparts (9 to 18) had a LEP parent. Almost one-half (46 percent) of native-born and three quarters of foreign-born young children of immigrants had at least one LEP parent. In contrast, a very small share (4 percent) of young children of natives lived in families in which either parent was LEP.
- Nearly one out of every four young children of immigrants lived in "linguistically isolated" households in which all persons age 14 and over were LEP. In contrast, 17 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 (49 versus 23 percent). Less than 2 percent of children of natives lived in such households.

Work and Wage

- Forty percent of young children of immigrants (under 9) lived in families in which both parents were in the labor force, a slightly greater share than 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 (28 versus 42 percent).
- The median hourly wage for native full-time year-round³ working parents of young children was about \$17 in 1999 for the Miami Knight Community. For immigrant parents of young children, the median hourly wage was \$14, the same as the national average for parents of young children of immigrants.

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

United States		Miami 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	Sales	14.1
Construction trades	13.1	Construction trades	12.1
Transportation and material moving	10.3	Transportation and material moving	11.9
Management	8.5	Management	11.8
Sales	7.6	Installation maintenance and repair	7.8
Mother's Occupation		Mother's Occupation	
Office and administrative support	17.1	Office and administrative support	25.6
Production	13.3	Sales	15.3
Sales	11	Healthcare practitioners	6.2
Grounds cleaning/maintenance	7.4	Production	6.1
Food preparation and serving	6.8	Grounds cleaning/maintenance	5.9

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 Miami Knight Community were much more likely to have fathers who were active in sales and installation maintenance and repair fields than young children of immigrants nationally (see Figure 2). However, both groups were likely to have fathers who worked in construction, transportation, and management occupations.
- While young children of immigrants in the Miami Knight Community were more likely to have mothers who were employed in office and administrative support or as healthcare practitioners than young children of immigrants nationally, both groups were likely to have mothers who worked in production, sales, and grounds maintenance occupations.

Poverty and Income

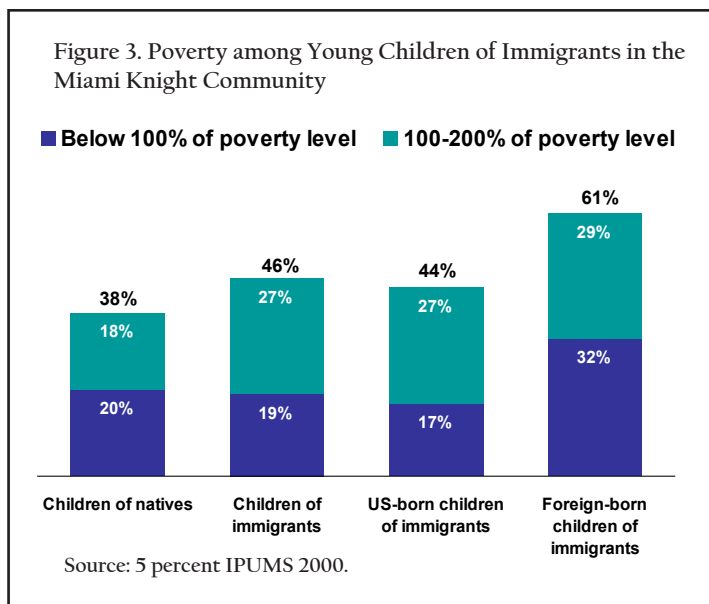
- According to Figure 3, young children of immigrants (under 9) were slightly less likely to live below the federal poverty line than children of natives (19 versus 20 percent).
- Forty-six percent (115,003) of children of immigrants under 9 in Miami lived in low-income families (with incomes less than 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 (61 versus 44 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: 9 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 19 percent of their counterparts in native families. US-born and foreign-born young children of immigrants had the same rate of public assistance receipt (9 percent).
- In 1999, about 1.3 percent of young children who lived in low-income immigrant families received Supplemental Security Income (SSI) versus 2.8 percent of those in native families. Among young children in low-income immigrant families, 1.2 percent of those born in the United States and 1.4 percent of those born abroad lived in families that received SSI.

Conclusions

- More than half of all young children under 9 in the Miami Knight Community were children of immigrants.
- Higher shares of young children of immigrants in the Miami Knight Community had a parent born in the Caribbean, Central America, and South America than in the state of Florida as a whole. In the Miami Knight Community, 55 percent of young children of immigrants had a parent born in the Caribbean (versus 41 percent in all of Florida), 15 percent had a parent born in Central America (versus 12 percent in Florida), and 22 percent had a parent born in South America (versus 17 percent in Florida). Young children of immigrants in the Miami Knight Community were less likely to have a parent born in Mexico than young children of immigrants in Florida as a whole (4 percent versus 12 percent).
- While 88 percent of young children of immigrants in the Miami Knight Community were citizens, two-thirds had a noncitizen parent. Consequently, more than half of young children of immigrants lived in mixed-status families. Such families may have been the cause for lower rates of benefit receipt by 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.

- Parents of young children of immigrants varied in their educational characteristics by their place of origin. Young children of immigrants with South American origins were more likely to have a parent with a four-year college degree than those with Caribbean or Central American origins (40 percent, versus 24 and 18 percent, respectively). Thirty-one percent of those with a parent from Cuba had a parent with a four-year college degree. Conversely, those with a parent born in Central America were much more likely to have parents without a high-school degree than those with a parent born in the Caribbean or South America (27 percent versus 20 and 8 percent, respectively). Sixteen percent of those with a parent from Cuba had a parent with less than a high-school diploma.
- About half of young children of immigrants in the Miami Knight Community had a LEP parent. About one-quarter lived in linguistically isolated households. As English is the predominant language in some Caribbean countries, young children with a parent from the Caribbean were less likely to have a LEP parent than young children with parents from Central or South America. Forty-three percent of young children with a parent from the Caribbean had a LEP parent, compared to 63 percent with a parent from South America, and 67 percent with a parent from Central America. Half of young children with a parent from Cuba lived with a LEP parent.
- Young children of immigrants in the Miami Knight Community were slightly less likely than young children of natives to live below the poverty line (19 versus 20 percent), but were substantially more likely than young children of natives to live in low-income families (61 versus 44 percent). Low-income rates for young children with a parent from South America (16 percent) were lower than low-income rates for young children with a parent from Central America (22 percent) or the Caribbean (20 percent), likely reflecting the higher educational levels of South American-born parents of young children. About 38 percent of young children with a parent born in Cuba lived in a low-income family.

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

