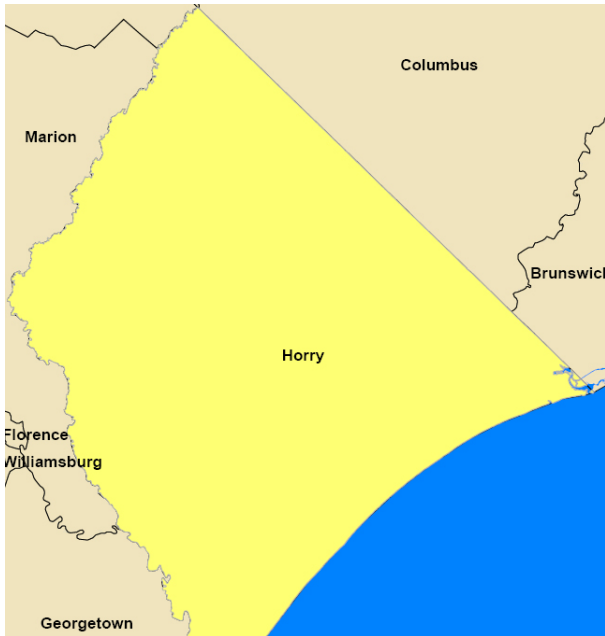


# Young Children of Immigrants in the Myrtle Beach Knight Community

Prepared by David Dixon, Julia Gelatt, and Afshin Zilanawala,  
Migration Policy Institute  
for the  
John S. and James L. Knight Foundation



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.

The Myrtle Beach Knight Community encompasses Horry County, South Carolina (see map).

## Growth (1990-2000)

- Children of immigrants were the fastest-growing component of the child population in the Myrtle Beach 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 33,462 to 39,327 (18 percent) between 1990 and 2000, the number of children of immigrants increased from 981 to 1,997 (104 percent).
- During the decade, the number of young children of immigrants (under 9) grew by 78 percent, from 480 to 855, while the population of young children of natives increased by 10 percent, from 16,416 to 18,035.

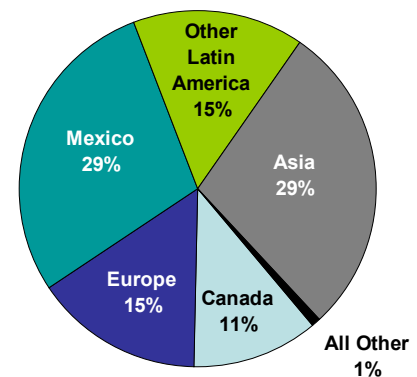
## Demographic Characteristics

- Children of immigrants made up 5 percent of the 18,890 children under 9 in the Myrtle Beach 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 who was born in Mexico, and 29 percent had a parent who was born in Asia (12 percent in East Asia, 4 percent in India/Southwest Asia, and 13 percent in the Middle East).
- Young children of immigrants were more likely to live in two-parent families than children of natives (88 versus 61 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 Myrtle Beach Knight Community. Only 21 percent of young children of immigrants were noncitizens, compared with 59 percent of older children.
- Among the younger children of immigrants, 79 percent were native born, while 21 percent were unauthorized immigrants. Among their older counterparts, 41 percent were native born, 19 percent were naturalized citizens, 4 percent had LPR status, 4 percent were temporary immigrants, and 33 percent were unauthorized immigrants.
- While 40 percent of young children of immigrants under 9 had a naturalized-citizen parent, more than half of young children of immigrants had a noncitizen parent: 16 percent had an LPR parent, while 44 percent of these children had an unauthorized immigrant parent. Among older children of immigrants, 30 percent had a naturalized-citizen parent

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

and more than two-thirds had a noncitizen parent: 27 percent had an LPR parent, 4 percent had a temporary immigrant parent, and 39 percent had an unauthorized immigrant parent.

- Many young children of immigrants under 9 in the Myrtle Beach Knight Community (roughly 45 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 Myrtle Beach Knight Community, 44 percent of young children of immigrants (under 9) had a parent with at least a bachelor's degree, compared to only 20 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, 19 percent of young children of immigrants in the Myrtle Beach Knight Community had parents with less than a high-school education (versus only 12 percent of children of natives).
- Despite high parental education levels, 30 percent of children of immigrants under 9 had one or more limited English proficient (LEP) parent,<sup>2</sup> while 41 percent of their older counterparts (9 to 18) had a LEP parent. Twenty-two percent of native-born and 58 percent of foreign-born young children of immigrants had at least one LEP parent. In contrast, less than 1 percent of young children of natives lived in families in which either parent was LEP.
- About 30 percent of young children of immigrants lived in “linguistically isolated” households in which all persons age 14 and over were LEP. In contrast, 26 percent of 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 22 percent). Less than 1 percent of children of natives lived in such households.

### Work and Wage

- Thirty-five 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 (42 versus 34 percent).
- The median hourly wage for native full-time year-round<sup>3</sup> working parents of young children was about \$12 in 1999 for the Myrtle Beach Knight Community. For immigrant parents of young children, the median hourly wage was \$15.
- Young children of immigrants in the Myrtle Beach Knight Community were much more likely to have fathers who were active in construction, sales, healthcare, and grounds cleaning/maintenance fields than young children of immigrants nationally (see Figure 2). However, both groups were likely to have fathers who worked in transportation-related occupations.

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

United States		Myrtle 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	Construction trades	29.3
Construction trades	13.1	Sales	15.7
Transportation and material moving	10.3	Transportation and material moving	11.5
Management	8.5	Healthcare practitioners	10.7
Sales	7.6	Grounds cleaning/maintenance	7.6
<b>Mother's Occupation</b>		<b>Mother's Occupation</b>	
Office and administrative support	17.1	Food preparation and serving	22.2
Production	13.3	Sales	22.0
Sales	11	Education training and library	19.7
Grounds cleaning/maintenance	7.4	Office and administrative support	13.7
Food preparation and serving	6.8	Construction trades	10.4

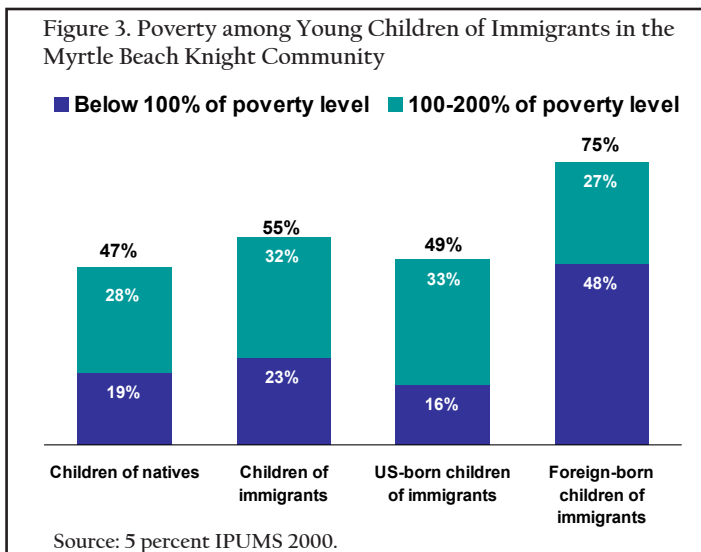
Source: 5 percent IPUMS 2000.

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.

- While young children of immigrants in the Myrtle Beach Knight Community were more likely to have mothers who were employed in food preparation/serving, sales, education/library services and construction-trades fields than young children of immigrants nationally, both groups were likely to have mothers who worked in office and administrative support 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 (23 versus 19 percent).
- Fifty-five percent (469) of children of immigrants under 9 in the Myrtle Beach Knight Community lived in low-income families (with incomes less than twice the federal poverty level), compared with 47 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 (75 versus 49 percent).



### Conclusions

- The number of young children of immigrants in the Myrtle Beach Knight Community was quite small (only 855). Therefore, the data remain unclear about some trends among this population. However, some general conclusions can still be drawn.
- While only 5 percent of young children under 9 in the Myrtle Beach Knight Community had one or more foreign-born parents, the population of young children of immigrants grew more rapidly between 1990 and 2000 than the population of young children of natives (78 percent growth versus 10 percent growth).
- About 45 percent of young children of immigrants in the Myrtle Beach Knight Community lived in mixed citizenship families compared to 65 percent of young children of immigrants nationwide. This lower incidence of mixed status families was due to the fact that young children of immigrants in the Myrtle Beach Knight Community were more likely to have a naturalized citizen parent than young children of immigrants nationwide.
- Young children of immigrants in the Myrtle Beach Knight Community were more than twice as likely as young children of natives to have a parent with a bachelor's or higher degree (44 percent versus 20 percent). Young children of immigrants were also slightly more likely to have a parent lacking a high-school diploma than young children of natives (19 versus 12 percent). Following national trends, young children with a parent from Asia were more likely to have a parent with a college degree than those with a parent from Mexico, and were less likely to have a parent lacking a high-school diploma.
- Young children of immigrants in the Myrtle Beach Knight Community had more highly educated parents than young children of immigrants in the United States as a whole. Young children of immigrants in the Myrtle Beach Knight Community were more likely than those at the national level to have parents with a bachelor's or higher degree (44 versus 27 percent) and less likely to have a parent lacking a high-school diploma (19 versus 32 percent).
- Perhaps as a result of the relatively high levels of education among immigrant parents of young children in the Myrtle Beach Knight Community, only about 30 percent of young children of immigrants in the Myrtle Beach Knight Community had a LEP parent, much lower than the 59 percent of young children of immigrants nationwide.
- Contrary to nationwide trends, young children of immigrants with a full-time year-round working parent had a median hourly parental wage \$3 higher than their counterparts with native parents. At the national level, the median hourly parental wage for young children of immigrants was \$2 lower than that of young children of natives. Yet despite these higher wages, young children of immigrants in the Myrtle Beach Knight Community were more likely to live below the poverty line or in a low-income household than young children of natives.

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