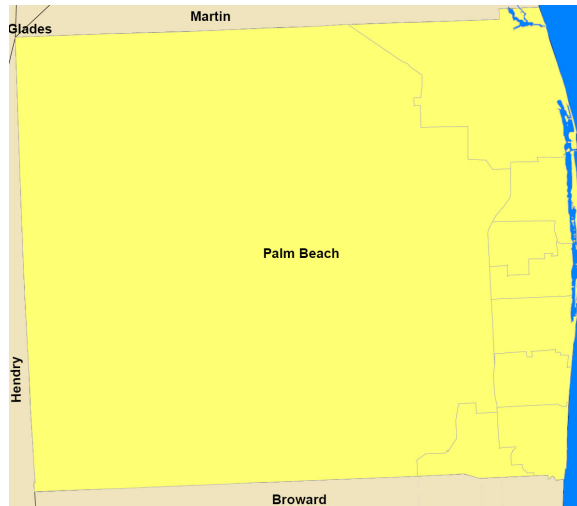


Young Children of Immigrants in the Palm Beach Knight Community

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The Palm Beach Knight Community encompasses Palm Beach County, Florida (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 Palm 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 from 134,444 to 164,604 (23 percent) between 1990 and 2000, the number of children of immigrants increased from 35,388 to 73,968 (109 percent).
- During the decade, the number of young children of immigrants (under 9) grew by 98 percent, from 18,039 to 35,726, while the population of young children of natives increased by 9 percent, from 70,759 to 77,063.

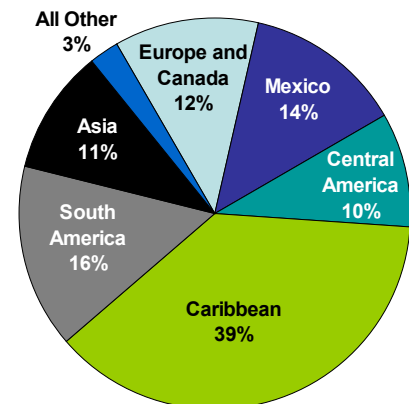
Demographic Characteristics

- Children of immigrants made up almost a third of the 112,789 children under 9 in the Palm Beach Knight Community.
- Children of immigrants under 9 were more likely to be US born (and, thus citizens) than foreign born (87 versus 13 percent).
- Among young children with foreign-born parents, 14 percent had a parent born in Mexico; 63 percent had a parent born in other parts of Latin America (10 percent in Central America, 39 percent in the Caribbean, and 16 percent in South America), while 11 percent had a parent born in Asia (4 percent in Southeast Asia, 3 percent in East Asia, 2 percent in India/Southwest Asia, and 3 percent in the Middle East).
- Young children of immigrants were more likely to live in two-parent families than children of natives (80 versus 69 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 Palm Beach Knight Community. Only 11 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, 2 percent had LPR status, 1 percent were temporary immigrants, 1 percent were refugees, and 6 percent were unauthorized immigrants. Among their older counterparts, 65 percent were native born, 5 percent were naturalized citizens, 10 percent had LPR status, 3 percent were refugees, 1 percent were temporary immigrants, and 15 percent were unauthorized immigrants.
- While 28 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, 9 percent had a refugee parent,

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

2 percent had a temporary immigrant parent, and 27 percent had an unauthorized immigrant parent. Among older children of immigrants, 41 percent had a naturalized-citizen parent and more than half had a noncitizen parent: 27 percent had an LPR parent, 7 percent had a refugee parent, 1 percent had a temporary immigrant parent, and 24 percent had an unauthorized immigrant parent.

- Most young children of immigrants under 9 in the Palm Beach Knight Community (roughly 61 percent) lived in mixed-status families with one or more noncitizen parents. (A mixed-status family includes adults who were non-citizens and children who were US citizens.)

Parent Education and Language

- In the Palm Beach Knight Community, about 29 percent of young children of immigrants (under 9) had a parent with at least a bachelor's degree, compared to 37 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, one out of four young children of immigrants in the Palm Beach Knight Community had parents with less than a high-school education (versus only 11 percent of children of natives).
- Half of children of immigrants under 9 had one or more limited English proficient (LEP) parent,² comparable to the share of their older counterparts (9 to 18). Forty-seven percent of native-born and nearly two-thirds 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.
- About 26 percent of young children of immigrants lived in “linguistically isolated” households in which all persons age 14 and over were LEP. In contrast, 15 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 (48 versus 23 percent). Less than 1 percent of children of natives lived in such households.

Work and Wage

- Thirty-eight 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 much less likely to have both parents in the labor force than US-born children of immigrants (26 versus 40 percent).
- The median hourly wage for native full-time year-round³ working parents of young children was about \$18 in 1999 for the Palm Beach Knight Community. For young children of immigrants, the median hourly parental wage was \$13.
- Young children of immigrants in the Palm Beach Knight Community were much more likely to have fathers who

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

United States		Palm Beach 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	Construction trades	14.5
Construction trades	13.1	Management	10.7
Transportation and material moving	10.3	Grounds cleaning/maintenance	10.0
Management	8.5	Sales	9.6
Sales	7.6	Transportation and material moving	7.4
Mother's Occupation		Mother's Occupation	
Office and administrative support	17.1	Office and administrative support	17.5
Production	13.3	Sales	11.8
Sales	11	Grounds cleaning/maintenance	10.3
Grounds cleaning/maintenance	7.4	Healthcare support	8.9
Food preparation and serving	6.8	Healthcare practitioners	7.1

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.

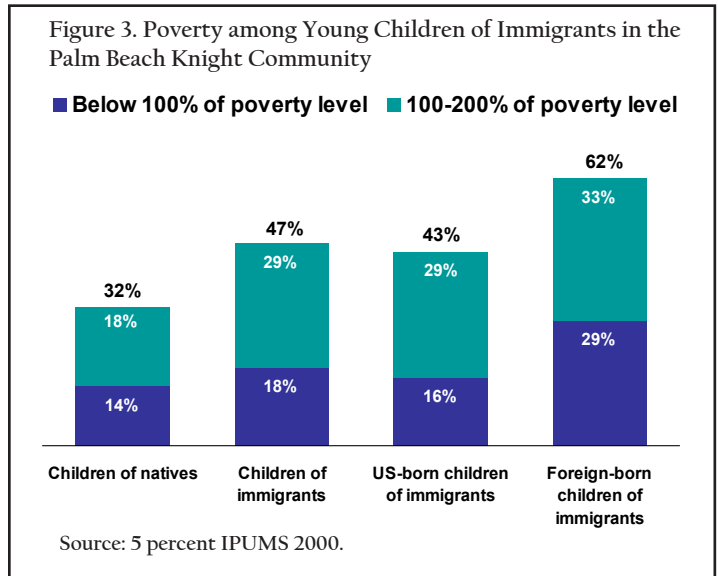
3. Full-time year-round workers are those who work 35 or more hours a week, 50 or more weeks a year.

were active in grounds maintenance-related fields than young children of immigrants nationally (see Figure 2). However, both groups were likely to have fathers who worked in management, sales, transportation, and construction-related occupations.

- While young children of immigrants in the Palm Beach Knight Community were more likely to have mothers who were employed in healthcare fields than young children of immigrants nationally, both groups were likely to have mothers who worked in office and administrative support, 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 (18 versus 14 percent).
- Forty-seven percent (16,763) of children of immigrants under 9 in the Palm Beach Knight Community lived in low-income families (with incomes less than twice the federal poverty level), compared with 32 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 (62 versus 43 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: 5 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 14 percent of their counterparts in native families. Furthermore, US-born young children of immigrants were more than five times as likely as their foreign-born counterparts to receive public assistance (5.6 versus 0.4 percent).
- In 1999, about 1.1 percent of young children who lived in low-income immigrant families received Supplemental Security Income (SSI) versus 2.1 percent of those in native families. Among young children in low-income immigrant families, 0.7 percent of those born in the United States and 3.0 percent of those born abroad lived in families that received SSI.

Conclusions

- About a third of all young children under 9 in the Palm Beach Knight Community were children of immigrants. The population of young children of immigrants nearly doubled between 1990 and 2000, while the population of young children of natives increased less than 10 percent.
- While 89 percent of young children of immigrants in the Palm Beach Knight Community were citizens, more than two-thirds had a noncitizen parent. Consequently, mixed-status families were common among young children of immigrants, and thus, legal and unauthorized noncitizen parents may have been reluctant to use public benefits for which their citizen children were eligible.
- Young children of immigrants in the Palm Beach Knight Community were slightly more likely than young children nationwide to have a parent with a college degree (29 versus 27 percent), and were less likely to have a parent lacking a high-school diploma (25 versus 32 percent). However, parents' place of birth greatly shaped their educational outcomes. Among young children with a parent from South America, 41 percent had a parent with a college degree, compared to 20 percent of young children with a parent from the Caribbean, and just 6 percent with a parent from Mexico. Conversely, young children with a parent from Mexico were most likely to have a parent lacking a high-

school diploma (56 percent), compared to 19 percent of those with a parent from the Caribbean, and 5 percent with a parent from South America.

- Young children of immigrants in the Palm Beach Knight Community were less likely to have a LEP parent than young children of immigrants at the national level (50 versus 59 percent). Young children of immigrants in the Palm Beach Knight Community were also less likely than those at the national level to live in linguistically isolated households (26 versus 32 percent). Young children with a parent from South America or the Caribbean were much less likely than those with a parent from Mexico to live with a LEP parent (50 and 49 percent, versus 83 percent).
- The median hourly wage of parents of young children of immigrants followed trends similar to those in education and English-language ability. For young children of immigrants with a full-time year-round working parent, the median parental hourly wage for those with a parent from Mexico was just \$9, compared to \$12 for those with a parent from the Caribbean, and \$15 for those with a parent from South America. Consequently, young children with a parent from Mexico (28 percent) were more likely to live below the poverty line than young children with a parent from the Caribbean (21 percent) or young children with a parent from South America (12 percent).
- Despite higher rates of poverty, young children with a parent born in Mexico were less likely than others to access public benefits. Four percent of young children with a parent from Mexico received public assistance, compared to 5 percent with a parent from the Caribbean, and 6 percent with a parent from South America.

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