

Young Children of Immigrants in the St. Paul Knight Community

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The St. Paul Knight Community includes Ramsey County, Minnesota (see map above).

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 St. Paul 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 decreased from 105,351 to 98,993 (6 percent) between 1990 and 2000, the number of children of immigrants increased from 14,585 to 29,810 (104 percent).
- During the decade, the number of young children of immigrants (under 9) grew by 83 percent, from 8,476 to 15,518, while the population of young children of natives decreased by 19 percent, from 56,888 to 46,193.

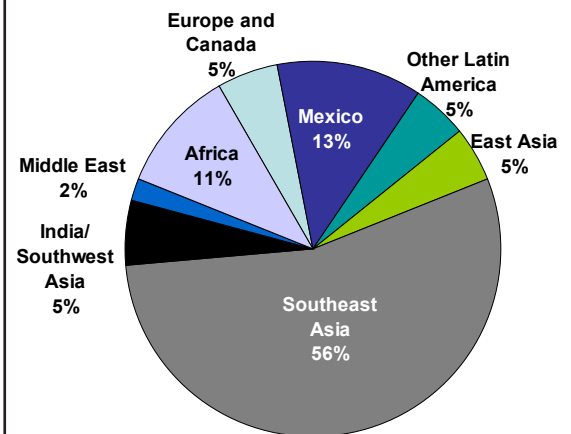
Demographic Characteristics

- Children of immigrants made up 25 percent of the 61,711 children under 9 in the St. Paul Knight Community.
- Children of immigrants under 9 were more likely to be US born (and, thus citizens) than foreign born (78 versus 22 percent).
- Among young children with foreign-born parents, 13 percent had a parent born in Mexico, while 67 percent had a parent born in Asia (56 percent in Southeast Asia, 5 percent in India/Southwest Asia, 5 percent in East Asia, and 2 percent in the Middle East).
- Young children of immigrants were more likely to live in two-parent families than children of natives (85 versus 67 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 St. Paul Knight Community. Only 20 percent of young children of immigrants were noncitizens, compared with 40 percent of older children.
- Among the younger children of immigrants, 78 percent were native born, 3 percent were naturalized citizens, 2 percent had LPR status, 2 percent were temporary immigrants, 13 percent were refugees, and 3 percent were unauthorized immigrants. Among their older counterparts, 55 percent were native born, 4 percent were naturalized citizens, 7 percent had LPR status, 27 percent were refugees, 1 percent were temporary immigrants, and 6 percent were unauthorized immigrants.
- While 20 percent of young children of immigrants under 9 had a naturalized-citizen parent, nearly four out of five young children of immigrants had a noncitizen parent: 18 percent had an LPR parent, 48 percent had a refugee parent,

Figure 1. World Region of Birth among Parents of Young Children of Immigrants in the St. Paul 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 12 percent had an unauthorized immigrant parent. Among older children of immigrants, 29 percent had a naturalized-citizen parent and more than two-thirds had a noncitizen parent: 14 percent had an LPR parent, 48 percent had a refugee parent, 1 percent had a temporary immigrant parent, and 9 percent had an unauthorized immigrant parent.

- Most young children of immigrants under 9 in the St. Paul Knight Community (roughly 70 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 St. Paul Knight Community, young children of natives (under 9) were more than twice as likely to have a parent with at least a bachelor’s degree as their counterparts in immigrant families (45 versus 21 percent). At the same time, 31 percent of young children of immigrants had parents with less than a high-school education (versus only 7 percent of children of natives).
- Nearly three out of four children of immigrants under 9 had one or more limited English proficient (LEP) parent,² while 79 percent of their older counterparts (9 to 18) had a LEP parent. Seventy percent of native-born and 86 percent of foreign-born young children of immigrants had at least one LEP parent. In contrast, a very small share (less than 1 percent) of young children of natives lived in families in which either parent was LEP.
- Forty-three percent of young children of immigrants lived in “linguistically isolated” households, where all persons age 14 and over were LEP. In contrast, 29 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 (49 versus 42 percent). Less than 1 percent of children of natives lived in such households.

Work and Wage

- Thirty-nine percent of young children of immigrants (under 9) lived in families in which both parents were in the labor force (versus 47 percent of young children of natives). At the same time, young foreign-born children of immigrants were nearly equally likely to have both parents in the labor force as US-born children of immigrants (41 versus 39 percent).
- The median hourly wage for native full-time year-round³ working parents of young children was about \$18 in 1999 for the St. Paul Knight Community. For young children of immigrants, the median hourly parental wage was \$13.
- Young children of immigrants in the St. Paul Knight Community were much more likely to have fathers who were active in computer/mathematical, production, and office/administrative fields than young children of immigrants nationally (see Figure 2). However, both groups were likely to have fathers who were in management and transport-

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

United States		St. Paul 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	Production	31.8
Construction trades	13.1	Transportation and material	11.9
Transportation and material moving	10.3	Management	7.2
Management	8.5	Office and administrative support	5.9
Sales	7.6	Computer and mathematical	5.1
Mother's Occupation		Mother's Occupation	
Office and administrative support	17.1	Production	26.5
Production	13.3	Office and administrative support	11.8
Sales	11	Grounds cleaning/maintenance	9.6
Grounds cleaning/maintenance	7.4	Healthcare support	8.2
Food preparation and serving	6.8	Sales	6.1

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.

tation-related occupations.

- While young children of immigrants in the St. Paul Knight Community were more likely to have mothers who were employed in production and healthcare support fields than young children of immigrants nationally, both groups were likely to have mothers who were 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 (35 versus 13 percent).
- Sixty-one percent (9,587) of children of immigrants under 9 in the St. Paul Knight Community lived in low-income families (with incomes less than twice the federal poverty level), compared to 30 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 (76 versus 58 percent).

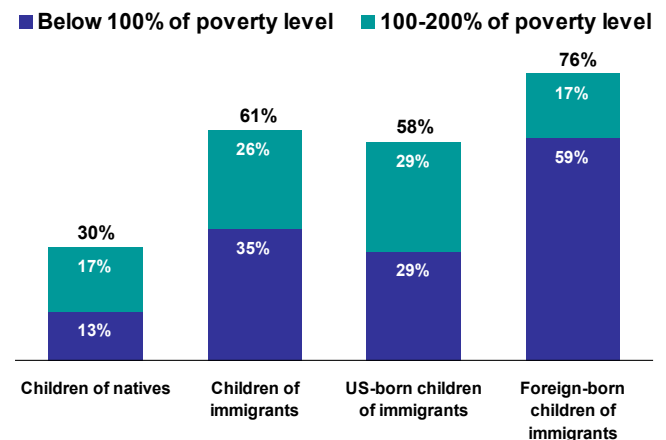
Hardship and Benefit Use

- Among low-income families, young children of immigrants (under 9) were more likely to live in families that received public benefits: 35 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 24 percent of their counterparts in native families. Foreign-born young children of immigrants were more likely to receive public assistance than their US-born counterparts (65 versus 24 percent).
- In 1999, about 9.8 percent of young children who lived in low-income immigrant families received Supplemental Security Income (SSI) versus 3.1 percent of those in native families. Among young children in low-income immigrant families, 9.1 percent of those born in the United States and 11.7 percent of those born abroad lived in families that received SSI.

Conclusions

- One-quarter of all young children (under 9) in the St. Paul Knight Community were children of immigrants. This population grew substantially between 1990 and 2000, while the population of young children of natives decreased.
- Young children in the St. Paul Knight Community were more likely to have a parent born in Southeast Asia than young children in the state of Minnesota as a whole (56 versus 32 percent) and were less likely to have a parent born in Mexico (13 versus 20 percent).
- Nearly half of young children of immigrants in the St. Paul Knight Community had a refugee parent, compared to just 2 percent of young children of immigrants nationwide. Three-quarters of young children with a parent from Southeast Asia had a refugee parent, while over 60 percent of young children with a parent from Mexico had an unauthorized immigrant parent.
- As at the national level, a high share of young children of immigrants in the St. Paul Knight Community lived in mixed-status families (70 percent in St. Paul and 65 percent nationally).
- Young children of immigrants in the St. Paul Knight Community were less likely to have a parent with at least a bachelor's degree than young children of immigrants at the national level. They were about as likely as young children of immigrants at the national level to have a parent without a high-school degree (31 versus 32 percent). Young

Figure 3. Poverty among Young Children of Immigrants in the St. Paul Knight Community



children with a parent from Mexico were somewhat more likely to have a parent with a college degree than those with a parent from Southeast Asia (10 versus 7 percent). However, young children with a parent from Mexico were also more likely to have a parent lacking a high-school diploma than those with a parent from Southeast Asia (51 versus 36 percent).

- Young children of immigrants in the St. Paul Knight Community were more likely than young children of immigrants at the national level to live with a LEP parent (74 versus 59 percent) and to live in a linguistically isolated household (43 versus 32 percent). Young children with a parent from Mexico and those with a parent from Southeast Asia were particularly likely to live with a LEP parent (80 and 86 percent, respectively). About half of both young children with a parent from Mexico and young children with a parent from Southeast Asia lived in linguistically isolated households.
- Young children with roots in different areas lived in different economic situations. Young children with a parent from Southeast Asia were slightly more likely to live in a low-income family than young children with a parent from Mexico (71 versus 67 percent).
- Young children of immigrants in the St. Paul Knight Community were more likely than young children of natives to access public benefits. However, the refugee status of many Southeast Asian parents and the unauthorized status of many Mexican parents led to a wide gap in benefits use. Among children in low-income families, 38 percent of those with a parent born in Southeast Asia accessed public assistance, while only 9 percent of those with a Mexican parent did the same. Young children in low-income families with a parent from Southeast Asia were twice as likely as young children in low-income families with a parent from Mexico to receive SSI (14 versus 7 percent).

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