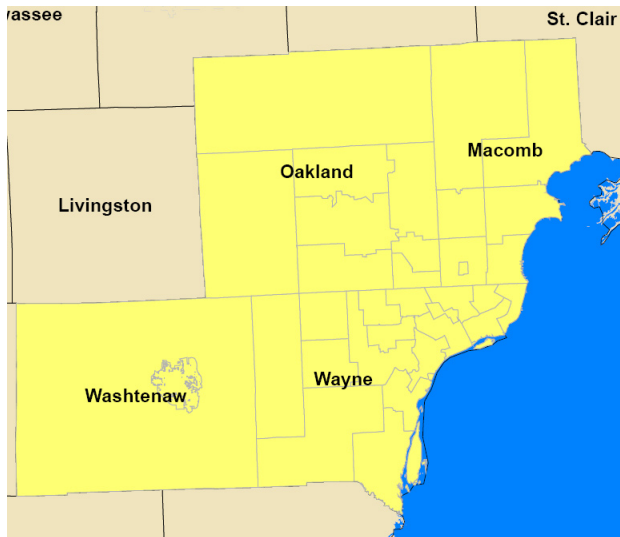


Young Children of Immigrants in the Detroit Knight Community

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The Detroit Knight Community includes Wayne, Macomb, Oakland, and Washtenaw Counties in Michigan (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 Detroit 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 slightly from 979,465 to 977,104 (less than 1 percent) between 1990 and 2000, the number of children of immigrants increased from 99,473 to 142,608 (43 percent).
- During the decade, the number of young children of immigrants (under 9) grew by 59 percent, from 45,646 to 72,700, while the population of young children of natives decreased by 4 percent, from 487,460 to 467,624.

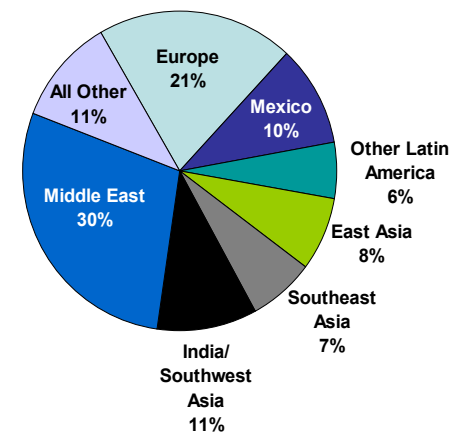
Demographic Characteristics

- Children of immigrants made up 13 percent of the 540,324 children under 9 in the Detroit Knight Community.
- Children of immigrants under 9 were more likely to be US born (and, thus citizens) than foreign born (83 versus 17 percent).
- Among young children with foreign-born parents, 10 percent had a parent who was born in Mexico, while 55 percent had a parent who was born in Asia (30 percent in the Middle East, 11 percent in India/Southwest Asia, 8 percent in East Asia, and 7 percent in Southeast Asia), and 21 percent had a parent born in Europe.
- Young children of immigrants were more likely to live in two-parent families than children of natives (91 versus 65 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 Detroit Knight Community. Only 16 percent of young children of immigrants were noncitizens, compared with 25 percent of older children.
- Among the younger children of immigrants, 83 percent were native born, 1 percent were naturalized citizens, 3 percent had LPR status, 4 percent were temporary immigrants, 4 percent were refugees, and 5 percent were unauthorized immigrants. Among their older counterparts, 68 percent were native born, 7 percent were naturalized citizens, 6 percent had LPR status, 7 percent were refugees, 3 percent were temporary immigrants, and 9 percent were unauthorized immigrants.
- While 33 percent of young children of immigrants under 9 had a naturalized-citizen parent, two-thirds of young children of immigrants had a noncitizen parent: 34 percent had an LPR parent, 10 percent had a refugee parent, 5 percent had a temporary immigrant parent, and 18 percent had an unauthorized immigrant parent. Among older children of

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

immigrants, 50 percent had a naturalized-citizen parent and half had a noncitizen parent: 26 percent had an LPR parent, 9 percent had a refugee parent, 3 percent had a temporary immigrant parent, and 13 percent had an unauthorized immigrant parent.

- Most young children of immigrants under 9 in the Detroit Knight Community (roughly 55 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 Detroit Knight Community, young children of immigrants (under 9) were more likely to have a parent with at least a bachelor’s degree than their counterparts in native families (46 versus 32 percent). Nationwide, only 27 percent of young children of immigrants had a parent with at least a bachelor’s degree. At the same time, 16 percent of young children of immigrants in the Detroit Knight Community had parents with less than a high-school education (versus 11 percent of children of natives).
- Despite high parental education levels, almost half (48 percent) of children of immigrants under 9 had one or more limited English proficient (LEP) parent,² a share comparable to that of their older counterparts (age 9 to 18) who had a LEP parent. Seventy-five percent of foreign-born and 43 percent of native-born young children of immigrants had at least one LEP parent. In contrast, a very small share (1 percent) of young children of natives lived in families in which either parent was LEP.
- Nearly one out of every four (24 percent) young children of immigrants lived in “linguistically isolated” households in which all persons age 14 and over were LEP. In contrast, 14 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 (51 versus 19 percent). Less than 1 percent of children of natives lived in such households.

Work and Wage

- Thirty-one percent of young children of immigrants (under 9) lived in families in which both parents were in the labor force, compared with 36 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 (20 versus 34 percent).
- The median hourly wage for native full-time year-round³ working parents of young children was about \$20 in 1999 for the Detroit Knight Community. For parents of young children of immigrants, the median hourly wage was \$20, \$6 more than the national average for parents of young children of immigrants.

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

United States		Detroit 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	Management	12.1
Construction trades	13.1	Sales	11.8
Transportation and material moving	10.3	Architecture and engineering	11.3
Management	8.5	Construction trades	10.3
Sales	7.6	Production	10.1
Mother’s Occupation		Mother’s Occupation	
Office and administrative support	17.1	Office and administrative support	15.3
Production	13.3	Healthcare practitioners	12.7
Sales	11	Sales	11.3
Grounds cleaning/maintenance	7.4	Production	9.4
Food preparation and serving	6.8	Education training and library	8.3

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 Detroit Knight Community were much more likely to have fathers who were active in management, sales, and architecture and engineering fields than young children of immigrants nationally (see Figure 2). However, both groups were likely to have fathers who worked in production and construction-related occupations.
- While young children of immigrants in the Detroit Knight Community were more likely to have mothers who were employed in healthcare and education/library services-related fields than young children of immigrants nationally, both groups were likely to have mothers who worked in office and administrative support, production, and sales occupations.

Poverty and Income

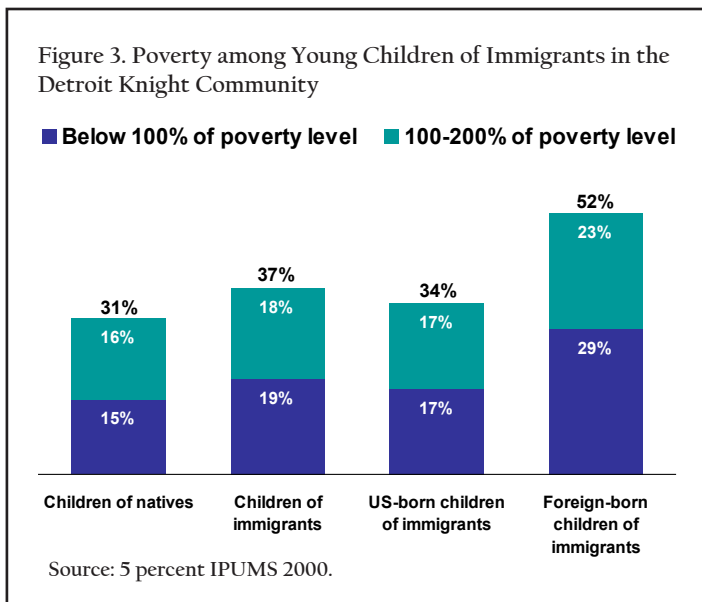
- According to Figure 3, young children of immigrants (under 9) were more likely to live below the federal poverty line than children of natives (19 versus 15 percent).
- Thirty-seven percent (27,317) of children of immigrants under 9 in the Detroit Knight Community lived in low-income families (with incomes less than twice the federal poverty level), compared with 31 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 (52 versus 34 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: 18 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 22 percent of their counterparts in native families. US-born and foreign-born young children of immigrants had nearly similar public assistance receipt (19 versus 18 percent).
- In 1999, about 3.5 percent of young children who lived in low-income immigrant families received Supplemental Security Income (SSI) versus 5.2 percent of those in native families. Among young children in low-income immigrant families, 3.3 percent of those born in the United States and 3.8 percent of those born abroad lived in families that received SSI.

Conclusions

- Though only 13 percent of all young children under 9 in the Detroit Knight Community were children of immigrants, their numbers grew rapidly between 1990 and 2000, while the number of young children of natives declined slightly.
- Eighty-four percent of young children of immigrants in the Detroit Knight Community were citizens, but two-thirds had a noncitizen parent. Consequently, mixed-status families were common among young children of immigrants. These mixed status families may partly explain the lower levels of benefit receipt among 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.
- Almost half of young children of immigrants had a parent with a college degree, a greater share than young children of natives who had a parent with a college degree (32 percent). At the same time, young children of immigrants were more likely than young children of natives to have a parent lacking a high-school degree (16 versus 11 percent). Young children with an Asian-born parent were more likely to have a parent with a college degree than those with a European parent (50 versus 45 percent), and were much more likely to have a parent with a college degree than



those with a Mexican parent (13 percent). Conversely, those with a parent born in Mexico were more likely to have a parent who had not completed high school than those with an Asian parent or European parent (48 versus 16 and 8 percent, respectively). Among young children with a parent born in the Middle East, 33 percent had a parent with a bachelor's degree and 23 percent had a parent with less than a high-school education.

- Fewer young children of immigrants in the Detroit Knight Community had a LEP parent than nationwide (48 versus 59 percent). Young children with a parent from Mexico were most likely to have a LEP parent (80 percent), compared to 56 percent of young children with a parent from the Middle East, and 40 percent of young children with a parent from Europe.
- While young children with a parent from the Middle East were more likely to have a parent with a college degree than young children with a parent from Mexico, young children with a parent from Mexico were more likely to have both parents in the labor force and were less likely to live below the poverty line. Twenty-five percent of young children with a parent from Mexico had two parents in the labor force compared to 19 percent of young children with a parent from the Middle East. Twenty-four percent of young children with a parent from Mexico lived below the poverty line, compared to 31 percent of young children with a parent from the Middle East.

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