

The Urban Institute Children of Immigrants Data Tool

Technical Appendix

Overview

The Urban Institute Children of Immigrants Data Tool is an interactive tool designed to generate charts along with a tabular version of the chart with statistics on children, age 0 to 17, for the United States and for the 50 states and the District of Columbia using data from the 2005 and 2006 American Community Survey. The Children of Immigrants Data Tool allows comparison of a number of population groups of children defined by the child's nativity and citizenship and the nativity, origin, and citizenship of the parents, such as children with immigrant parents compared with children with noncitizen parents or children with Mexican parents. Available statistics include *child* characteristics (e.g., child's school enrollment), *parent* characteristics (e.g., English proficiency of parents), and *family* characteristics (e.g., family poverty). Data can be presented as the number of children or the share (percent) of children with a given characteristic.

Note: Statistics can be obtained for available population groups on the “Select Populations” page. The population groups are defined based on the nativity, citizenship, age, race and ethnicity, and poverty status of the child, and the nativity, citizenship, and immigrant origin of the child's parents. The “Select Statistics” page lists the statistics that are available about the population groups including child characteristics (e.g., English proficient), parent characteristics (e.g., U.S. citizen parents), and family characteristics (e.g., one-parent family). *Some, terms (e.g., Asian) are available as both population groups and statistics. Other “Select Statistics” terms (e.g., one-parent family) are currently unavailable as populations, and data about them cannot be obtained using the Data Tool.*

Notes for Use

The Children of Immigrants Data Tool has seven sections:

- **Intro**
- **Select States**
- **Select Populations**
- **Select Data Type**
- **Select Statistics**
- **Results**
- **Technical Appendix**

Click on “Begin>>” or “Next>>” on the “Intro” page. Select states or the United States on the “Select States” page and click on “Next>>.” Select population groups on the “Select Populations” page and click on “Next>>.” Select data type—Share (percent) or Number (count), on the “Select Data Type” page and click on “Next>>.” Select statistics on the “Select Statistics” page and click on “Next>>” to view the results options on the “Results” page.

Examples:

When “United States” is selected on the “Select States” page, “Children of Immigrants” selected on the “Select Populations” page, “Share” on the “Select Data Type” page, and “Asian” selected on the “Select Statistics” page, the Children of Immigrants Data Tool will generate a chart with the share or percentage of children of immigrants in the United States that are Asian.

When “California” and “Maryland” are selected on the “Select States” page, “Immigrant Children” selected on the “Select Populations” page, “Number” on the “Select Data Type” page, and “Bilingual” selected on the “Select Statistics” page, the Children of Immigrants Data Tool will generate a chart with the number of bilingual immigrant (foreign-born) children in California and Maryland.

Limitations

- **Statistics can be obtained for the available population groups on the “Select Populations” page.** See the note under “Overview.”
- **Users may select as many states as needed.**
- **Users may select up to three populations.**
- **Users may select up to eight statistics.**

Data Source

The primary data sources for the statistics in the Children of Immigrants Data Tool are the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS) datasets (Ruggles et al. 2008). The IPUMS datasets are drawn from the combined 2005 and 2006 U.S. Census Bureau American Community Surveys (ACS) that together compose a 2 percent sample of the nation’s population.

Population Estimates

Data displayed in the charts and tables represent population estimates based on weights in the American Community Survey. Data are averaged across 2005 and 2006.

For more information about the American Community Survey and population estimates please refer to the ACS Handbook, “A Compass for Understanding and Using American Community Survey Data,” available at <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Downloads/ACSGeneralHandbook.pdf>.

Data Availability

Statistics are available for the United States and the 50 states and District of Columbia. Data are not provided on statistics for certain populations—such as children with parents from Africa and the West Indies—in states with a small number of children sampled in this population (fewer than 90 cases) because statistical inferences cannot be made.

Child-Parent Relationship

The IPUMS data identifies one or both parents of the child if the parent(s) are living in the household. The child-parent relationship in the IPUMS data is biological and social—for example, stepfathers and adoptive fathers are identified in addition to biological fathers. The child-parent relationship in a small number of cases has been imputed using information about all household members (for more information on the child-parent relationship in the IPUMS data, see the IPUMS documentation on *Family Interrelationships* at <http://usa.ipums.org/usa/chapter5/chapter5.shtml>).

The child-parent relationship is not defined in the data for a small number of children. When the child is identified as a grandchild of the householder, the immigration status of the grandparent is used to determine the immigration status, citizenship, and region of birth of the parent (for about 2 percent of children in the sample). This leaves about 3 percent of children in the sample for which the immigration status of the parents has not been determined.

For the purpose of describing the education, limited English proficiency status, employment, work effort, and race/ethnicity of the parents, the householder and/or spouse information are used when the child-parent relationship has not been determined.

Immigrants

“Immigrant” or “foreign-born” persons are born outside the United States and its territories. Those born in Puerto Rico and other territories or born abroad to U.S. citizen parents are considered native born. Immigrants include both legal and unauthorized immigrants, though the latter are somewhat undercounted in the official Census and ACS data. Demographers have estimated that the unauthorized are undercounted by about 10 percent in these data sources (see Passel2006).

Parental Origin

Parental origin is defined by grouping countries based on geography, languages, the refugee shares of all immigrants, and available sample sizes. Countries are grouped in eight origin groups: (1) Europe, Canada and Australia; (2) Mexico; (3) other Central America and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean; (4) South America; (5) Southeast Asia; (6) East Asia and the Pacific; (7) the Middle East and South Asia; and (8) Africa and the remaining Caribbean countries, in most of which English is spoken. For a child with parents from different regions of birth, the child is assigned the region of birth of the mother.

Family

“Family” includes the householder and all individuals living with the householder and related to him/her by birth, marriage, or adoption, as well as the unmarried partner of the householder and foster children living in the household. This definition of the family is more inclusive than the definition employed by the American Community Survey, where the family includes the householder and those related to him/her by birth, marriage, or adoption but excludes unmarried partners and foster children.

Glossary

A

Africa and West Indies—see Children with parents from Africa and West Indies.

African-American—see Black.

Asian or non-Hispanic Asian—a person who identified him/herself as Asian or Pacific Islander and did not identify him/herself as Hispanic, Spanish, or Latino when responding to the survey. The Asian racial/ethnic category is mutually exclusive of the other racial/ethnic groups—Hispanic, non-Hispanic white, black, and Native American. The Census survey allows respondents to select more than one racial/ethnic group. Non-Hispanic Asians are those who reported they were Asian or Pacific Islander and did not report they were also black/African American.

B

Black or non-Hispanic Black—a person who identified him/herself as black or African American and did not identify him/herself as Hispanic, Spanish, or Latino when responding to the survey. The black racial/ethnic category is mutually exclusive of the other racial/ethnic groups—Hispanic, non-Hispanic white, Asian, and Native American. The Census survey allows respondents to select more than one racial/ethnic group. Non-Hispanic blacks are all those who reported they were black or African American, regardless of additional racial/ethnic groups reported.

C

(Other) Central America and Spanish Caribbean—see Children with parents from other Central America and Spanish Caribbean.

Children of immigrants or Children of immigrant parents—children with at least one foreign-born parent (see Child-Parent Relationship discussion, page 3, for the definition of a parent). A foreign-born person is someone born outside the United States and its territories.

Children of native-born parents—children with parents that are both native born. Children living with a single parent that is native-born are included in this group (see Child-Parent Relationship discussion, page 3, for the definition of a parent). A person born in the United States, Puerto Rico, and other U.S. territories or born abroad to U.S. citizen parents is native born.

Children with LIWF immigrant parents—see Low-income working families.

Children with LIWF native-born parents—see Low-income working families.

Children with parents from Africa and West Indies—children with parents that were born in Africa and the non-Spanish-speaking Caribbean (see Child-Parent Relationship discussion, page 3, for the definition of a parent). When parents are from different regions of birth, the child is assigned the region of birth of the mother. See appendix table 1 for a list of countries in Africa and the West Indies.

Children with parents from East Asia and Pacific—children with parents that were born in East Asia and Pacific, excluding Australia and New Zealand (see Child-Parent Relationship discussion, page 3, for the definition of a parent). When parents are from different regions of birth, the child is assigned the region of birth of the mother. See appendix table 1 for a list of countries in East Asia and the Pacific.

Children with parents from Europe—children with parents that were born in Europe, Canada, Australia, or New Zealand (see Child-Parent Relationship discussion, page 3, for the definition of a parent). When parents are from different regions of birth, the child is assigned the region of birth of the mother. See appendix table 1 for a list of countries in Europe.

Children with parents from Mexico—children with parents that were born in Mexico (see Child-Parent Relationship discussion, page 3, for the definition of a parent). When parents are from different regions of birth, the child is assigned the region of birth of the mother.

Children with parents from the Middle East and South Asia—children with parents that were born in the Middle East and South Asia (see Child-Parent Relationship discussion, page 3, for the definition of a parent). When parents are from different regions of birth, the child is assigned the region of birth of the mother. See appendix table 1 for a list of countries in the Middle East and South Asia.

Children with parents from other Central America and Spanish-speaking Caribbean—children with parents that were born in Central America, other than Mexico, or the Spanish-speaking Caribbean (Cuba and Dominican Republic; see Child-Parent Relationship discussion, page 3, for the definition of a parent). When parents are from different regions of birth, the child is assigned the region of birth of the mother. See appendix table 1 for a list of countries in Central America and the Spanish-speaking Caribbean.

Children with parents from South America—children with parents that were born in South America (see Child-Parent Relationship discussion, page 3, for the definition of a parent). When parents are from different regions of birth, the child is assigned the region of birth of the mother. See appendix table 1 for a list of countries in South America.

Children with parents from Southeast Asia—children with parents that were born in Myanmar (Burma), Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, or Vietnam (see Child-Parent Relationship discussion, page 3, for the definition of a parent). When parents are from different regions of birth, the child is assigned the region of birth of the mother.

Children with noncitizen parents—children that have at least one foreign-born parent that is not a naturalized U.S. citizen (see Child-Parent Relationship discussion, page 3, for the definition of a parent).

Citizen—a person that is a native-born (see Native-born) or naturalized U.S. citizen.

Citizen children with noncitizen parents—U.S. citizen children that have at least one foreign-born parent that is not a naturalized U.S. citizen (see Child-Parent Relationship discussion, page 3, for the definition of a parent). U.S. citizen children are native-born or naturalized U.S. citizens.

E

East Asia and Pacific—see Children with parents from East Asia and Pacific.

English Proficient—those who responded to the survey that they speak English at home or that they speak another language at home but also speak English very well.

Europe—see Children with parents from Europe.

F

Family—includes the householder and all individuals living with the householder and related to him/her by birth, marriage, or adoption, as well as the unmarried partner of the householder and foster children living in the household. This definition of the family is more inclusive than the definition employed by the American Community Survey where family includes the householder and those related to him/her by birth, marriage, or adoption.

Foreign-born—a person born outside the United States or its territories. Those born in Puerto Rico and other territories or born abroad to U.S. citizen parents are native born.

H

High work effort—see Working families or Low-income working families.

Hispanic—a person who identified him/herself as Hispanic, Spanish, or Latino when responding to the survey. People of Hispanic origin may be of any race. The Hispanic racial/ethnic category is mutually exclusive of the other racial/ethnic groups—non-Hispanic white, black, Asian, and Native American.

I

Immigrant—a person born outside the United States or its territories. Those born in Puerto Rico and other territories or born abroad to U.S. citizen parents are native born.

Immigrant children—see Immigrant.

L

LIWF—see Low-income working families.

Limited English proficient—those who responded to the survey that they speak a language other than English at home and that they speak English well, not well, or not at all. Those speaking English at home or speaking another language at home but also speaking English very well are considered English proficient.

Linguistically isolated households—households in which no person age 14 and older either speaks only English at home or speaks a language other than English at home and also speaks English very

well. All members of such a household are considered linguistically isolated, even though children under 14 who speak only English may live there.

Low-income (family)—having total family income below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. In 2004, the federal poverty level was \$19,307 for a family of four, slightly higher for larger families, and lower for smaller families. See Family for definition of who is included in the family.

Low-income working families—families with total family income below 200 percent of the federal poverty level that have high or moderate work effort. Family work effort is classified as high if any adult reports at least 1,800 hours of work in the prior year (approximately equal to 35 hours of work a week for 52 weeks a year); as medium if adults average at least 1,000 hours or the total hours worked is at least 1,800 hours, but no adult reports 1,800 hours of work in the prior year; and as low if neither criteria is met (Acs and Nichols 2005). See Family for definition of who is included in the family.

Low work effort—see Working families or Low-income working families.

M

Medium work effort—see Working families or Low-income working families.

Mexico—see Children with parents from Mexico.

Middle East and South Asia—see Children with parents from Middle East and South Asia.

N

Native American—a person who identified him/herself as American Indian or Alaska Native and did not identify him/herself as Hispanic, Spanish, or Latino when responding to the survey. The Native American racial/ethnic category is mutually exclusive of the other racial/ethnic groups—Hispanic, non-Hispanic white, black, and Asian. The Census survey allows respondents to select more than one racial/ethnic group. Native Americans are those who reported they were American Indian/Alaska Native and did not report they were also black/African American, Asian/Pacific Islander, or white.

Native-born—a person born in the United States, Puerto Rico, and other U.S. territories or born abroad to U.S. citizen parents.

Native-born children—see Native-born.

Native-born children of immigrant parents—children that are native born and have at least one foreign-born parent (see Child-Parent Relationship discussion, page 3, for the definition of a parent). A foreign-born person is someone born outside the United States and its territories. A native-born person is born in the United States, Puerto Rico, and other U.S. territories or born abroad to U.S. citizen parents.

Noncitizen parents—neither parent is a U.S. citizen.

P

Parent—see Child-Parent Relationship discussion, page 3.

Poor (family)—having total family income below 100 percent of the federal poverty level. In 2004, the federal poverty level was \$19,307 for a family of four, slightly higher for larger families, and lower for smaller families. See Family for definition of who is included in the family.

S

South America—see Children with parents from South America.

Southeast Asia—see Children with parents from Southeast Asia.

U

U.S. citizen—a person that is native-born (see Native-born) or a naturalized U.S. citizen.

U.S. citizen parents—one or both parents are U.S. citizens.

W

White or non-Hispanic white—a person who identified him/herself as white and did not identify him/herself as Hispanic, Spanish, or Latino when responding to the survey. The white racial/ethnic category is mutually exclusive of the other racial/ethnic groups—Hispanic, non-Hispanic black, Asian, and Native American. The Census survey allows respondents to select more than one racial/ethnic group. Non-Hispanic whites are those who reported they were white and did not report they were also black/African American or Asian/Pacific Islander.

Working families—families that have high or moderate work effort. Family work effort is classified as high if any adult reports at least 1,800 hours of work in the prior year (approximately equal to 35 hours of work a week for 52 weeks a year); as medium if adults average at least 1,000 hours or the total hours worked is at least 1,800 hours, but no adult reports 1,800 hours of work in the prior year; and as low if neither criteria is met (Acs and Nichols 2005). See Family for definition of who is included in the family.

References

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- Passel, Jeffrey S. 2006. *The Size and Characteristics of the Unauthorized Migrant Population in the U.S.: Estimates Based on the March 2005 Current Population Survey*. Research report. Washington, DC: Pew Hispanic Center.
- Ruggles, Steven, Matthew Sobek, Trent Alexander, Catherine A. Fitch, Ronald Goeken, Patricia Kelly Hall, Miriam King, and Chad Ronnander. 2008. Integrated Public Use Microdata Series: Version 4.0 [Machine-readable database]. Minneapolis: Minnesota Population Center [producer and distributor]. Available at <http://usa.ipums.org/usa/>.

Appendix Table 1: Region and Country of Birth of Immigrants

Europe and Australia	Other Central America and Spanish-Speaking Caribbean	Mexico
Albania	Belize	Mexico
Armenia	Costa Rica	
Austria	El Salvador	South America
Azerbaijan	Guatemala	Argentina
Belarus	Honduras	Bolivia
Belgium	Nicaragua	Brazil
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Panama	Chile
Bulgaria		Colombia
Croatia	Cuba	Ecuador
Czech Republic	Dominican Republic	Guyana
Czechoslovakia		Paraguay
Denmark	East Asia and Pacific	Peru
Estonia	China	Uruguay
Finland	Fiji	Venezuela
France	Hong Kong	
Georgia	Indonesia	Africa and West Indies
Germany	Japan	Algeria
Greece	Korea	Cameroon
Hungary	Malaysia	Cape Verde
Iceland	Micronesia	Egypt
Ireland	Philippines	Eritrea
Italy	Samoa	Ethiopia
Kazakhstan	Singapore	Ghana
Latvia	Taiwan	Guinea
Lithuania	Tonga	Kenya
Macedonia		Liberia
Moldova	Middle East and South Asia	Morocco
Montenegro	Afghanistan	Nigeria
Netherlands	Bangladesh	Senegal
Norway	India	Sierra Leone
Poland	Iran	Somalia
Portugal	Iraq	South Africa
Romania	Israel	Sudan
Russia	Jordan	Tanzania
Slovakia	Kuwait	Uganda
Spain	Lebanon	Zimbabwe
Sweden	Nepal	
Switzerland	Pakistan	Antigua & Barbuda
Ukraine	Saudi Arabia	Bahamas
United Kingdom	Sri Lanka	Barbados
USSR	Syria	Dominica
Uzbekistan	Turkey	Grenada
Yugoslavia	Yemen	Haiti
		Jamaica
Bermuda	Southeast Asia	St Vincent & The Grenadines
Canada	Cambodia	St. Kitts-Nevis
	Laos	St. Lucia
Australia	Myanmar	Trinidad & Tobago
New Zealand	Thailand	
	Vietnam	