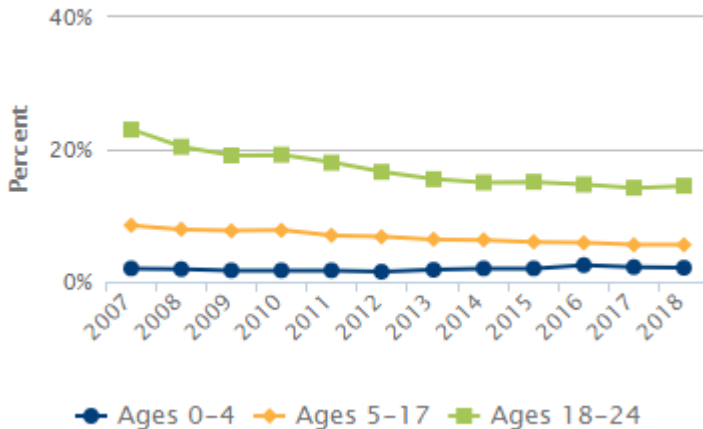


Foreign-Born and Limited English-Speaking Californians

Percentage of Children Living in Limited English-Speaking Households: 2014-2018; Showing Counties
 Percentage of Children and Young Adults Born Outside the U.S., by Age Group
California



Definition: Estimated percentage of the population born outside of the United States, by age group (e.g., in 2018, 5.6% of California children ages 5-17 were foreign-born).
Data Source: Population Reference Bureau, analysis of U.S. Census Bureau [American Community Survey](#) summary files and public use microdata (Dec. 2019).

What It Is

On kidsdata.org, measures related to foreign-born and limited English-speaking populations include the following:

- Percentage of children living in limited English-speaking households (i.e., households in which (i) no one age 14 or older speaks English only, and (ii) no one age 14 or older who speaks a language other than English speaks English very well)
- Percentage of children living with at least one foreign-born parent, overall and by income level
- Percentage of the population that is foreign-born, by age group

Depending on the indicator, data are available as one- and five-year estimates for the nation, state, and counties and/or county groups, and as five-year estimates for cities, school districts, and legislative districts.

Why This Topic Is Important

U.S. children of foreign-born parents represent a large and growing segment of the population. In 2018, this group, comprised overwhelmingly of native-born citizens, accounted for roughly a quarter of the nation's child population and nearly half of children in California. California has the highest percentage of foreign-born residents in the country, the majority of whom are naturalized citizens or have other documented status.

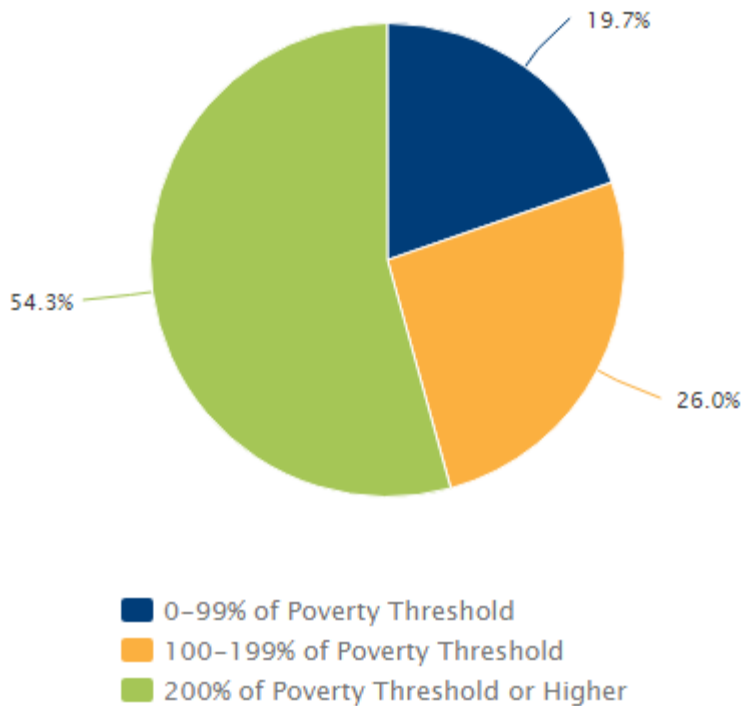
Although immigrants are more likely to be employed than their U.S.-born counterparts, children with foreign-born parents are more likely than other children to live in poverty. Children in immigrant families also are more likely to have parents with low educational attainment, to live in limited English-speaking households, to lack health insurance coverage and a usual source of health care, and to report poorer health status compared with children of native-born parents. It is therefore important for local and state government, schools, health care systems, and community organizations to address the needs of these children and families, support their strengths, and work to eliminate service barriers.

How Children Are Faring

Nearly half (47%) of California children live with at least one foreign-born parent, compared with roughly a quarter (26%) of children nationwide, according to 2018 estimates. Among these

Percentage of Children Living with Foreign-Born Parents, by Income Level: 2018

California



Definition: Estimated percentage of children ages 0-17 living with at least one parent who was born outside of the United States, by income level (e.g., in 2018, among California children living with foreign-born parents, 54.3% had family incomes at or above 200% of their federal poverty threshold).

Data Source: Population Reference Bureau, analysis of U.S. Census Bureau [American Community Survey](#) summary files and public use microdata (Dec. 2019).

children of foreign-born parents, statewide and nationally, one in five lives below the federal poverty threshold. Across counties with data in 2014-2018, Santa Clara had the highest percentage of children living with foreign-born parents, at 64%, while Tuolumne had the lowest, at 7%.

In 2018, 9% of California children lived in households in which no one age 14 or older spoke English very well, down from 15% in 2007. At the county level, estimates of children living in limited English-speaking households vary widely across regions with data, from less than 2% (Calaveras; Del Norte; Siskiyou) to more than 20% (Monterey) in 2014-2018.

According to 2018 estimates, 2% of California children ages 0-4, 6% of children ages 5-17, and 15% of young adults ages 18-24 were born outside the U.S. Since 2007, the percentage of foreign-born children ages 0-4 has remained relatively stable while the share of foreign-born Californians ages 5-24 has declined.

View references for this text and additional research on this topic:

<https://www.kidsdata.org/topic/9/immigrants/summary>



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