

Texas Children in Immigrant Families

Equity Matters: Five things to know about race, ethnicity and immigration status

1

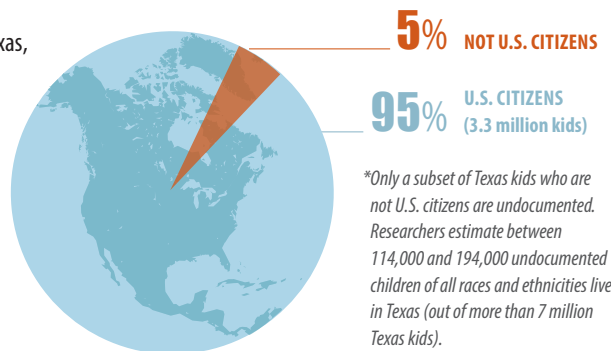
Race, ethnicity and immigration status are both distinct and overlapping.

According to the Census Bureau, nearly half of the more than 7 million children in Texas are of Hispanic/Latino ethnicity. Of the 3.5 million children of Hispanic ethnicity who live in Texas, 82 percent identify their race as White, 13 percent as 'some other race,' 4 percent as multiracial and 1 percent as Black.¹

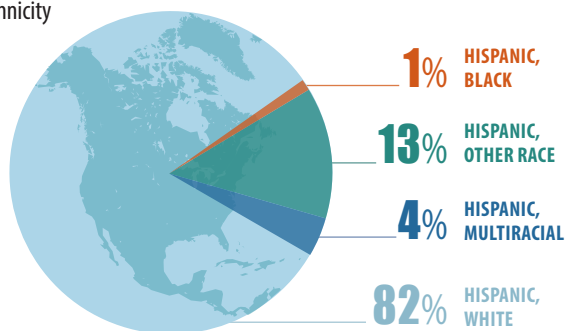
Ninety-five percent of Hispanic children in Texas are U.S. citizens.² Texas is also home to many Hispanic children whose families have been living in the state even before it became part of the U.S. In fact, about half of Hispanic children in Texas have parents who were U.S. citizens at birth.³ Only five percent of Hispanic Texas children are not U.S. citizens, and only a subset of these are undocumented. Researchers estimate the number of undocumented children in Texas to be between 114,000 and 194,000.⁴ Although the vast majority of undocumented people in Texas are from Latin America, it is estimated that 8 percent are from Asia or Africa.⁵

The vast majority of Hispanic children in Texas are U.S. citizens.⁶

Hispanic children in Texas, by citizenship, 2014



Children of Hispanic ethnicity in Texas, by race, 2014



2

One-third of Texas kids (nearly 2.4 million) live with one or more parents who is an immigrant.⁷

Of these children, half live with at least one parent who is not a U.S. citizen (includes legally authorized). Researchers estimate that 834,000 children in Texas live with one or more undocumented parents.⁹

Millions of Texas kids live in immigrant families¹⁰



Out of 7 million Texas kids, 2.4 million Texas kids live with one or more parents who is an immigrant.



Of those, half of these kids live with at least one parent who is not a U.S. citizen (includes legally authorized).



Researchers estimate 834,000 Texas kids live with one or more parents who is undocumented.

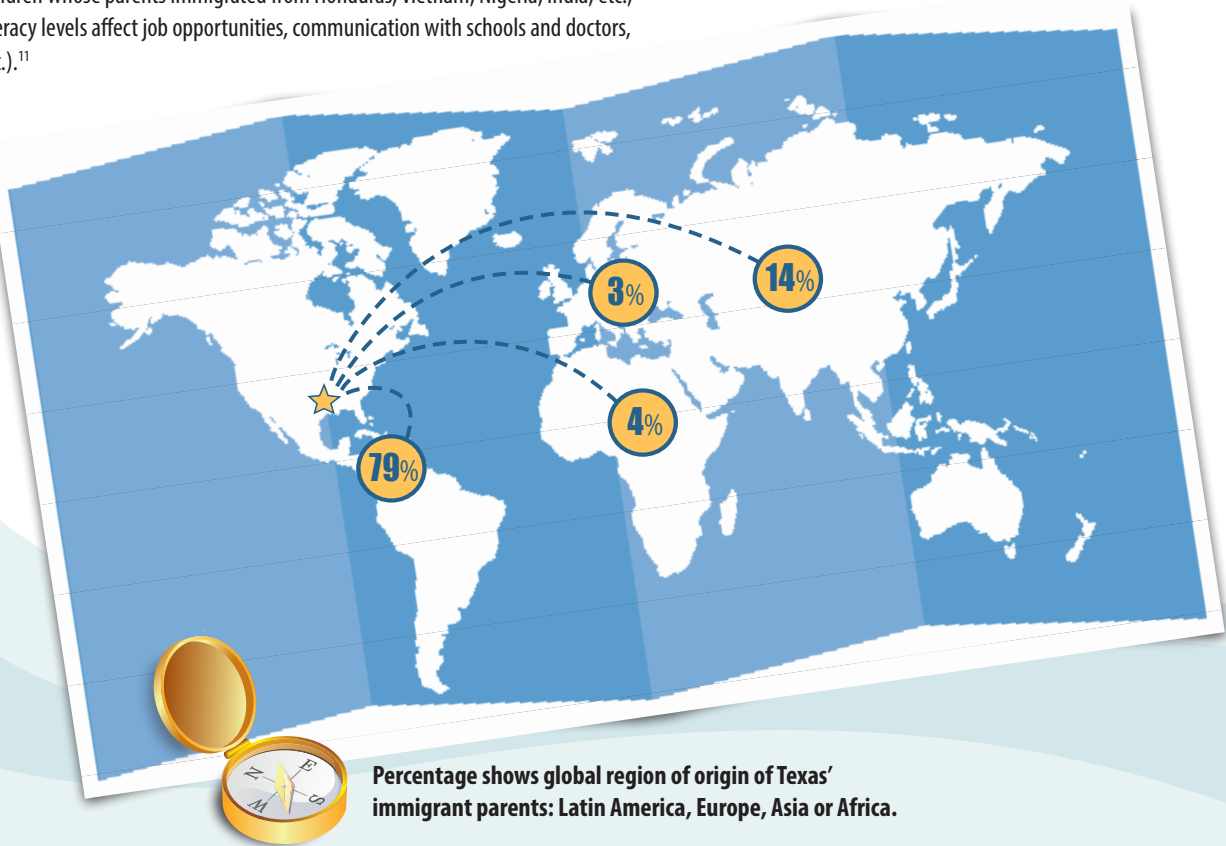
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Immigrants in Texas represent a diverse and complex group.

Texas families that include immigrants differ not only in regard to the countries of birth for parents and children, but legal residency or U.S. citizenship status, English-speaking proficiency, length of time spent living in the U.S., literacy in a native language, education levels, and race and ethnicity. Differences in these characteristics influence the challenges and opportunities that families face (e.g., children whose parents immigrated from Mexico have different experiences than children whose parents immigrated from Honduras, Vietnam, Nigeria, India, etc.; literacy levels affect job opportunities, communication with schools and doctors, etc.).¹¹



The largest percentage of parents who are immigrants arrive from Latin America, but a growing share arrive from Asia.¹²



Percentage shows global region of origin of Texas' immigrant parents: Latin America, Europe, Asia or Africa.

4

Children in families that include one or more immigrants fare better on some aspects of child well-being than children with U.S.-born parents.

Children in immigrant families have lower infant mortality rates than children with U.S.-born parents.¹³ They are also more likely to be born at a healthy birthweight,¹⁴ decreasing risk of developmental delays and disabilities.¹⁵ Seventy-five percent of children in immigrant families live with married parents, compared to 59 percent of children with U.S.-born parents.¹⁶ Research shows that children of married parents have better physical, cognitive and emotional outcomes.¹⁷

5

Immigration and economic growth are linked.

Research shows that metropolitan areas with the greatest economic growth also experienced the greatest increase in the labor force attributed to immigrants.¹⁸ Immigration functions as both a cause and effect of growth: growing cities attract workers, and new workers bolster economic growth.¹⁹ Immigrants also power the state economy as job creators, small business owners and entrepreneurs. Immigrants make up 18.4 percent of Texas business owners with paid employees²⁰ and are self-employed at a higher rate (9.4 percent) than the native-born population (5.8 percent).²¹

Endnotes

- 1-3 CPPP analysis of 2014 ACS PUMS. <http://1.usa.gov/1WT6oVu>
- 4 Pew estimates 775,000 unauthorized children live in the U.S. CPPP estimates 15-25% of the U.S. total lives in Texas (114,000 – 194,000). The Migration Policy Institute estimates 131,000 unauthorized children under age 16 live in Texas. See MPI, Profile of the Unauthorized Population: Texas. <http://bit.ly/1TeRtGk>
- 5-6 CPPP analysis of 2014 ACS PUMS. <http://1.usa.gov/1WT6oVu>
- 7 The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, Children in immigrant families 2014. <http://bit.ly/1Rvw16M>. Child is foreign-born or resides with at least one foreign-born parent. Foreign-born includes U.S. citizen by naturalization, not a citizen with legal authorization, and not a citizen with no legal authorization.
- 8 The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, Children in immigrant families in which resident parents are not U.S. citizens 2014. <http://bit.ly/1qbZiBa>. Parents who are not U.S. citizens include those with and without legal authorization.
- 9 Capps, R., et al. (2016). A profile of U.S. children with unauthorized immigrant parents. Table A-2. Washington, DC: MPI.
- 10 See notes 7-8.
- 11 To learn more, see Immigrants Drive the Texas Economy (March 2017). Austin, TX: CPPP <http://bit.ly/2mdYD3m>
- 12 The Annie E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, Children in immigrant families by parent's region of origin 2014. <http://bit.ly/1VQk2dP>
- 13-14 Hernandez, D.J., & Napierala, J.S. (2012). Children in immigrant families. NY, NY: Foundation for Child Development. <http://bit.ly/1VQk5GC>
- 15 Child Trends Databank. (2015). Low and very low birthweight infants. <http://bit.ly/1ASXq99>
- 16 See note 13.
- 17 Ribar, D.C. (2015). Why marriage matters for child wellbeing. *The Future of Children*, 25(2), 11-23.
- 18 Kallick, D.D. (2009). Immigrants and the economy. NY, NY: Fiscal Policy Institute. <http://bit.ly/1RLnaaX>
- 19 Denhart, M. (2015). America's advantage. The Bush Institute at the George W. Bush Presidential Center.
- 20 U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 Annual Survey of Entrepreneurs, Statistics for Owners of Respondent Employer Firms by Whether the Owner Was Born a U.S. Citizen by Sector, Gender, Ethnicity, Race, Veteran Status, and Years in Business for the U.S., States, and Top 50 MSAs, Table SE1400CSCB009. Includes firms with payroll at any time during 2014.
- 21 U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S0501.