CHILDREN OF IMMIGRANT PARENTS

The immigrant population in the United States has increased substantially since the 1970s, largely due to immigration from Asia and Latin America. In 2013, 25.8 percent of children in the United States had at least one immigrant parent. Of all children, 22.5 percent were born in the United States with an immigrant parent or parents, and 3.3 percent were themselves immigrants, with or without an immigrant parent. Most children (74.2 percent) were native born with native-born parents (figure 1).

Children’s poverty status varies with nativity. In 2013, immigrant children with immigrant parents and native children with immigrant parents were most likely to live in poverty, with 30.8 and 28.4 percent respectively, living in households with incomes below 100 percent of poverty ($23,834 for a family of four in 2013; figure 2). More than a quarter of immigrant children with immigrant parents and native children with native-born parents (figure 1).

A number of other factors vary by the nativity of children and their parents. For example, immigrant and native children with immigrant parents were more likely to live in two-parent households (77.9 and 73.3 percent, respectively) compared to children with native parents (66.6 percent). Immigrant and native children with immigrant parents were also more likely to live in metropolitan areas (93.7 and 94.9 percent, respectively) than children with native parents (82.1 percent).

Data Sources

Suggested Citation