Children of Immigrants Data Tool:

The share of immigrants living in the United States has grown substantially over the last 40 years, but both the share and the characteristics of immigrants vary widely by state and even within state across metro areas. As the share of immigrants has grown so has the share of children whose parents are immigrants. Understanding the current share and characteristics of children of immigrants as well as the trends at the state and metro area are vital for policies that affect children and family. For instance, in order to determine the types of language accessibility policies necessary for schools, it is important to know both the share of children of immigrants as well the proportion that have limited or no English proficiency.

This page expands on the children of immigrants’ data tool available here [insert link]. All of the statistics used to generate the interactive maps on this page can be extracted from the children of immigrants’ data tool.

Share:

* From 2006 to 2009, the number of children of immigrants in the United States steadily grew from 15.7 million to 16.8 million; from 2010 to 2011 the growth stagnated increasing at one third the rate of the previous three years. The share, however, continued to grow steadily as the number of native born children actually fell during that time period.

Country of Origin of Parents

* From a policy perspective country of origin is particularly important; it will influence the types of language accessibility programs necessary to serve students and their parents. While the overall distribution of country of origin of parents of children of immigrants has not changed substantially, some consistent trends are developing, for instance there has been a steady decrease in children with parents from Europe or Canada and an increase in children with parents from the Middle East & South Asia.

Citizenship

* Because citizenship often determines eligibility for many federal programs aimed at low income families, understanding the distribution of citizenship among children of immigrants is vital for making decisions about supplemental state programs for non-citizens. While the share of children of immigrants in the US who are not citizens has steadily declined from 14% in 2006 to 11% in 2011, the share of citizen children with noncitizen parents has grown from 30% to 33%. Non-citizen parents are less likely to participate in programs like SNAP or TANF even when their citizen children are eligible, implying that outreach may become an important factor in ensuring this group does not fall through the social safety net. [Insert link to ASPE Barriers to Immigrant access ]

Language:

* English proficiency of both children of immigrants and their immigrant parents is very important for language accessibility policies. Parents with limited or no English proficiency may experience difficulties navigating schools, health providers, and other public and private community institutions [Insert link to Holcomb et al. 2003]. While the share of children of immigrants with limited English proficiency has fallen from 19% in 2006 to 16% in 2011, the share of children of immigrants who have no English proficient parent has remained steady at around 44%.

Education:

* From 2006 to 2011 the percentage of children in each age group who are children of immigrants has increased, with the exception of the 0 to 3 years old age group, which did not change. Their participation rates in school have been increasing for both pre-school and kindergarten through high school. The share of children of immigrants with at least one parent with a college education has increased.
* Footnote: Age statistics is the share of children that are children of immigrants in a certain age group and not the share of children of immigrants who are in a certain age group.

Family Structure:

* Children of immigrants are much more likely to live in two parent homes than children of native-born parents. While the share of children of immigrants with single parents is increasing it is increasing very slowly. Children of immigrants are also more likely to have a large number of siblings, with 64% of children of immigrants living in families with more than four children versus 50% of children of native born parents.

Poverty & Income:

* While there was an overall increase in the share of children below the poverty line, children of immigrants were especially affected, despite being more likely to be in families with at least one parent working. While the share of children of immigrants living in poor families actually declined from 2006 to 2008, the share jumped from 20% in 2008 to 26% in 2011.

Footnotes for the webpage:

Immigrant refers to a person who is born outside of the United States.

At the end of each blurb please insert:

For more information please see the Children of Immigrants Brief at [insert link].