

## IMMIGRANTS' CHILDREN FARE WELL IN STUDY

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The children of immigrants have higher grades and sharply lower dropout rates than other American children, according to a four-year study that claims to be the largest of its kind.

The study, reported yesterday in the New York Times, says the children also largely prefer English to their parents' native languages.

The adolescents surveyed were predominantly Hispanic, Asian and black, and a majority said they had experienced discrimination. But an even larger majority said they believed the United States was the best country to live in.

The study's lead researchers said the findings indicated that the children of immigrants were unlikely to develop into an underclass, as some experts fear, cut off from the mainstream by academic failure and an inability to speak English.

But the researchers also said it was still uncertain how well the children of immigrants - who make up 20 percent of all children in the United States - would do in college and the job market.

The research team - led by sociologists Ruben Rumbaut of Michigan State University and Alejandro Portes of Princeton University - first interviewed 5,200 eighth and ninth graders in San Diego and Miami in 1992. They found 82 percent of them for a second interview in 1995 and 1996.

The children of Chinese, Indian, Japanese and Korean parents got the best grades - an average of A's and B's. Latin American and Haitian children performed poorest, with close to C averages.

The number of children who are either immigrants or the American-born offspring of immigrants grew to 13.7 million last year, from 8 million in 1990. That makes them the fastest-growing segment of the population under the age of 18.

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