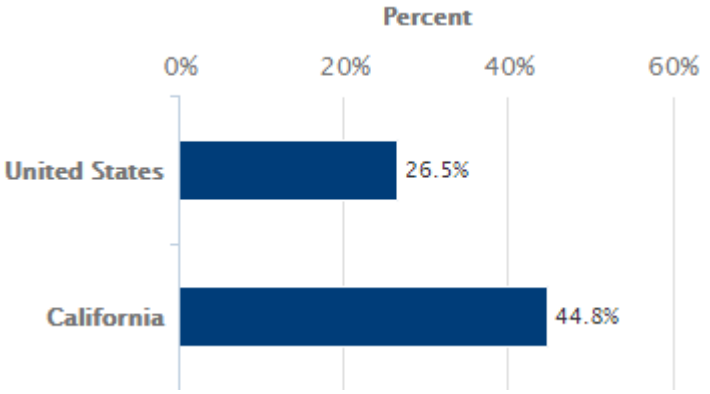
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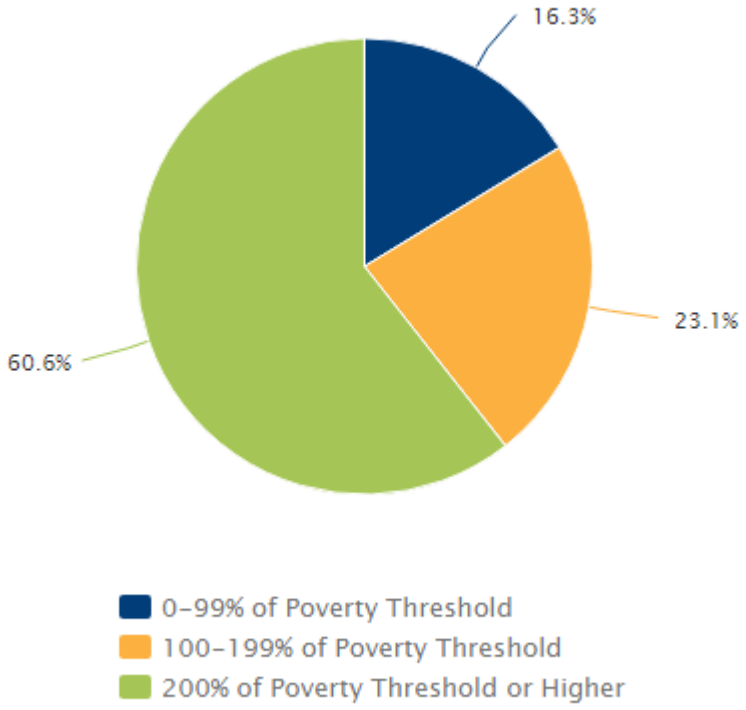
Foreign-Born and Limited English-Speaking Californians

Percentage of Children Ages 0-17 Living with Foreign-Born Parents: 2024



Definition: Estimated percentage of children ages 0-17 living with at least one parent who was born outside of the United States (e.g., in 2024, 44.8% of California children lived with foreign-born parents).
Data Source: Population Reference Bureau, analysis of U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey summary files and public use microdata (Aug. 2026).

Percentage of Children Living with Foreign-Born Parents, by Income Level: 2024
California



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. This group, comprised overwhelmingly of native-born citizens, accounted for a quarter of the nation's child population and nearly half of children in California in 2024. 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 children of native-born parents to live in poverty. Children in immigrant families also are more likely than other children to live in limited English-speaking households and to lack health insurance coverage and regular access to health care—factors associated with poorer health outcomes. It is therefore important for 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

Close to half (45%) of California's children live with at least one foreign-born parent, compared with roughly a quarter (27%) of children nationwide, according to 2024 estimates. Among these children of foreign-born parents,

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 2024, among California children living with foreign-born parents, 60.6% 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 (Aug. 2026).

Percentage of Children Living in Limited English-Speaking Households: 2024

Locations	Percent
United States	4.9%
California	7.5%
Alameda County	7.1%
Contra Costa County	6.5%
Fresno County	7.2%
Kern County	5.3%
Los Angeles County	10.5%
Orange County	6.1%
Riverside County	4.1%
Sacramento County	9.3%
San Bernardino County	4.8%
San Diego County	5.6%
Santa Clara County	8.7%

Definition: Estimated percentage of children ages 0-17 living in households in which (i) no person age 14 or older speaks English only, and (ii) no person age 14 or older who speaks a language other than English speaks English very well (e.g., in 2024, 7.5% of California children lived in limited English-speaking households).
Data Source: Population Reference Bureau, analysis of U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey public use microdata (Aug. 2026).

statewide and nationally, around 2 in 5 live below 200% of the federal poverty threshold ($63,624 for a family of two adults and two children in 2024). Across local areas with data, Santa Clara County had the highest percentage of children living with foreign-born parents in 2024, at 64%, while the county group comprising Del Norte, Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, and Siskiyou had the lowest, at 9%.

In 2024, 8% 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, from fewer than 1 in 150 children (El Dorado) to more than 1 in 7 (Santa Barbara) in 2024.

According to 2024 estimates, 3% of California children ages 0-4, 7% of children ages 5-17, and 13% 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://kidsdata.org/topic/9/immigrants/summary