



FACT SHEET

ON NEW YOUNG AMERICANS

To the Reader:

This fact sheet has been prepared to offer contextual information for the panel discussions of the New Young Americans Conference. A glossary of terms is provided on the last page.

Collection of data about immigrant youth in Massachusetts is particularly difficult. As has been noted in the context of disproportionate minority contact for youth in the juvenile justice system, the Commonwealth does not systematically collect information on immigrant youth. This Fact Sheet, therefore, presents what little data is available from state and national sources.

We hope the paucity of information available here will help policymakers realize that it is imperative for the state to collect this data to be able to make the best policy decisions for the Commonwealth's youth.

Khamvongsa,

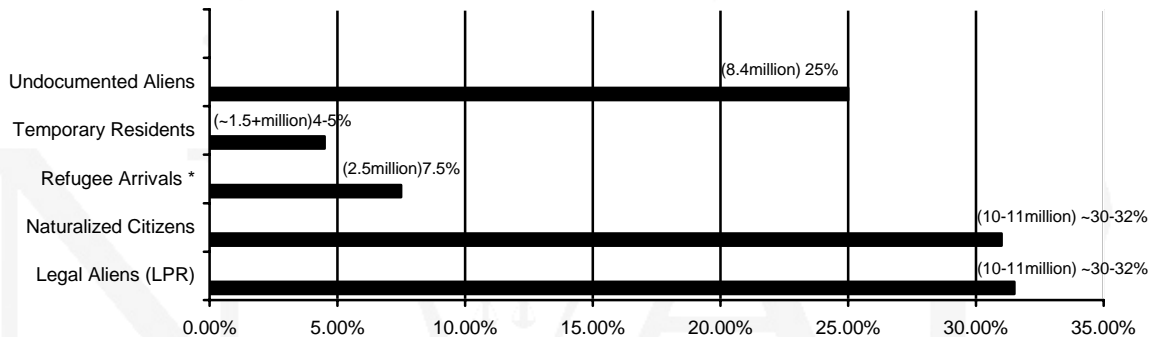
Samantha

NYAP Coordinator

DEMOGRAPHICS

Approximately 11% of the total U.S. Population is foreign born compared to 12.2% of the foreign born population in Massachusetts. Massachusetts is the 7th most popular state for settlement of recent immigrants. It is also considered a “traditional receiving state” for new immigrants who are settled by the federal government.

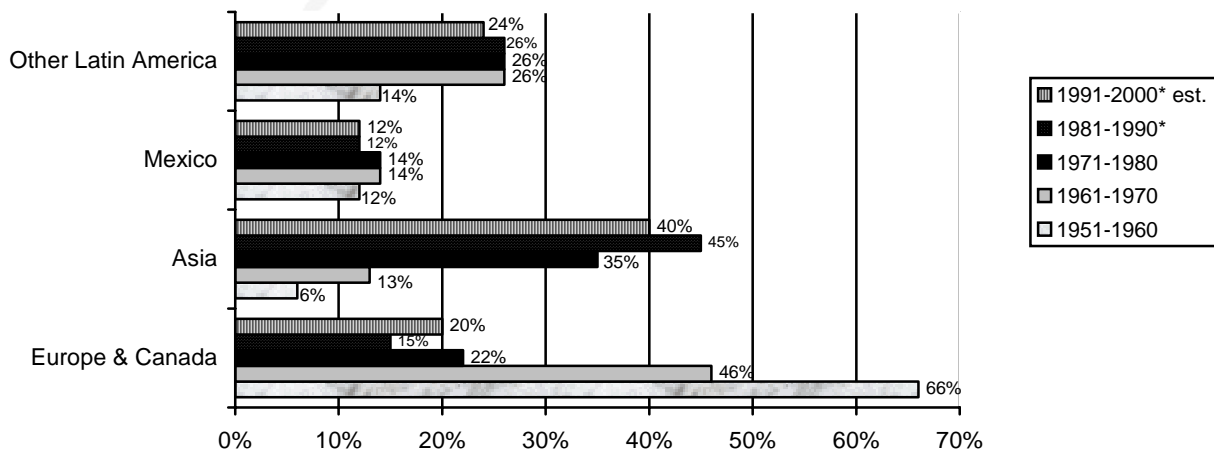
LEGAL STATUS OF THE FOREIGN-BORN POPULATION IN 2000



*Entered 1980 or later. Includes refugees who are LPRs and naturalized citizen

The origins of immigration flows have changed dramatically over the past 30 years, shifting from primarily European countries in the 1960s and 1970s, to primarily Asian countries since the 1990s.

MOST LEGAL IMMIGRANTS ARE FROM LATIN AMERICA AND ASIA



* An Asterisk indicates that IRCA legalizations have been executed

On average, the following number of immigrants who entered the U.S. annually in the 1990's, included:

- 700,000-900,000 legal permanent residents
- 70,000-125,000 refugees and asylees
- 300,000-500,000 or more undocumented immigrants

- Contrary to public opinion, it is jobs and wages higher than in their country of origin—not public benefits--that drive migration choices for immigrants.

CHILDREN IN IMMIGRANT FAMILIES

- Children of immigrants are the fastest growing segment of the U.S population under age 18.
- 3 out of 4 children in immigrant families headed by a non-citizen are U.S citizens usually because they have been born in the U.S. One out of 4 children with immigrant parents is foreign born; what might be called a “first generation” American.
- 85% of immigrant families with children are mixed legal status families meaning that at least one parent is a non-citizen and one child is a citizen.
- About 94% of children of immigrant families live in metropolitan areas.
- 1/3 of the children of immigrants and almost half of immigrant children live in families with incomes below the poverty line.

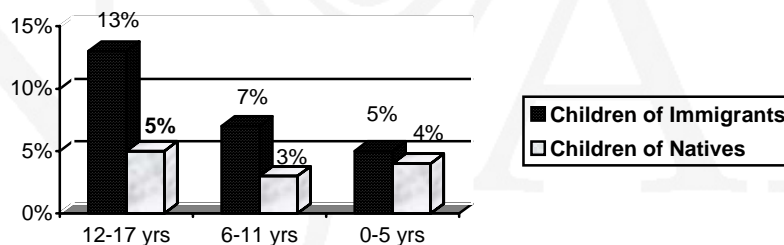
Children of immigrants are likely to be impacted by welfare reform:

- Among legal immigrant families with children, use of TANF fell by 53% between 1994 and 1995; while food stamp use fell by 38%
- Among refugee families with children, TANF use fell by 78% between 1994 and 1999; while food stamp use fell by 53%.

A SNAPSHOT: IMMIGRANT VS. NON-IMMIGRANT FAMILIES

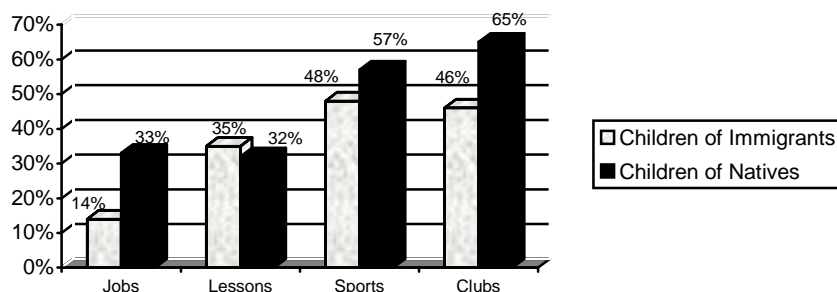
- Over 50% of children of immigrants live in families with incomes below 200% of the federal poverty line, compared to 37% of non-immigrant families.
- Children in two-parent immigrant families are twice as likely to be low income as children in two-parent non-immigrant families. The fact that 56% of immigrant males are among the lowest wage earners explains some of the disparity. The presence of a second parent does not increase incomes in immigrant families to the same extent as it does in non-immigrant families.
- Children of low income immigrants are more likely to have parents who are full time workers than children of low-income natives.
- Children of immigrants are twice as likely to be in “fair” or “poor” health.

SHARE OF CHILDREN IN FAIR OR POOR HEALTH



- 21% of poor, uninsured children nationwide live in mixed status families.
- One in 3 children without insurance is in an immigrant family.
- Children of immigrant families are less likely than those of natives to have parents engaged in social activities outside of the home. Parents of immigrant children are also less likely to volunteer for religious, school or community activities.
- Immigrant children are less likely than native children to participate in extracurricular activities.

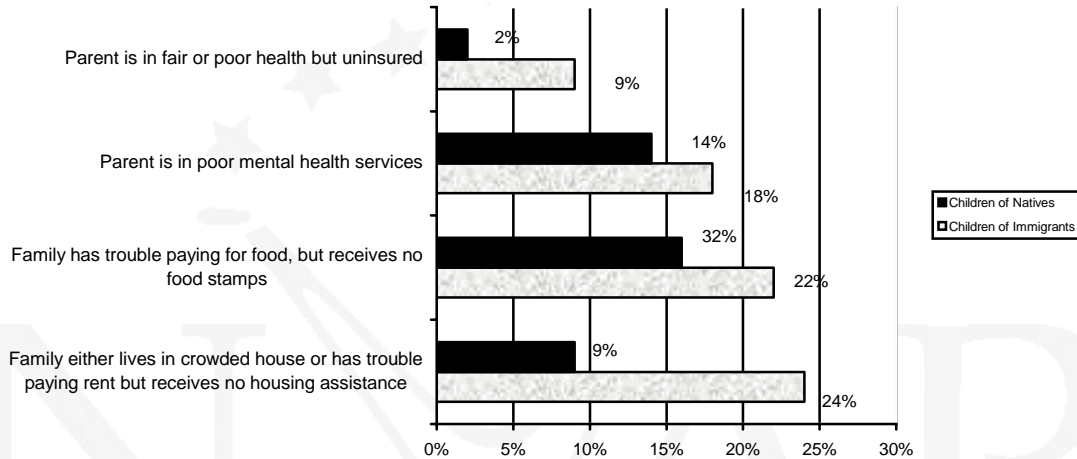
AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN AGE 12-17



*Source: Urban Institute

- Children in immigrant families are more likely than children in non-immigrant families to experience economic hardship but receive no public benefits such as food stamps and housing assistance.

UNMET NEEDS FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES, ALL CHILDREN



INDICATORS FOR CHILDREN OF IMMIGRANT AND CHILDREN OF NATIVES

- Overall, Massachusetts' immigrant children fare better than immigrant children in other states.

	US		MASSACHUSETTS		CALIFORNIA		NEW YORK	
	Immigrants	Natives	Immigrants	Natives	Immigrants	Natives	Immigrants	Natives
Family Income and Poverty								
Below 100% poverty level, %	24	16	15	11	25	16	27	19
Below 200% of poverty level, %	52	37	37	26	55	32	54	39
Median family income	\$35,900	\$46,200	\$45,400	\$58,000	\$35,000	\$52,000	\$34,800	\$44,200
Food Concerns and Affordability								
One or more food-related probs. %	37	27	28	22	38	30	33	29
Housing Affordability and Crowding								
Paying at least 1/2 of income for rent or mortgage, %	14	6	12	7	15	11	26	12
Problems paying rent, mortgage, or utilities, %	18	17	18	16	19	17	20	19
Living in crowded housing (more than 2 people per bedroom), %	29	7	13	4	37	12	32	9
Health Insurance, Access and Health Status of Children								
Uninsured, %	22	10	6	2	23	6	13	6
No usual source of care, %	14	4	6	1	13	5	9	2
In fair or poor health, %	9	4	6	3	9	4	11	4

Source:

REFUGEES AND ASYLEES IN MASSACHUSETTS

- Approximately 70% of recent refugee arrivals to Massachusetts are resettled in eastern Massachusetts, 24% in Western Massachusetts, and 6% in central Massachusetts.
- 83% of refugees living in Massachusetts, are sponsored by anchor families; 17% were resettled as free cases; 10% entered Massachusetts as secondary migrants; and 27% were asylees.
- Refugees from the former Soviet Union (39%) and Africa (22%) comprised nearly 61% of all new incoming arrivals to Massachusetts in the 1990s.
- In the 1980's, most refugees to Massachusetts came from Southeast Asia, the former Soviet Union, Ethiopia, Cuba and Haiti. The 1990s saw an increase in refugees from the former Soviet Union, former Yugoslavia, and Africa.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Half of Limited English Proficient (LEP) children attend schools in which 33% or more of their fellow students are also LEP.

Nationwide, 47 million people or 18% of the population ages 5 or older, speak a language other than English at home.

- 28 million speak Spanish.
- 10 million speak Indo-European languages.
- 7 million speak Asian and Pacific languages.

MASSACHUSETTS' STORY*

LANGUAGE SPOKEN <u>AT HOME</u>			SPEAKING ENGLISH LESS THAN <u>"VERY WELL"</u>		
LANGUAGE	1990	2000	LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME	1990	2000
Only English	85%	81%	Spanish	48%	44%
Spanish	4%	6%	Other Indo European	35%	37%
Other Indo European	9%	9%	Asian Language	59%	53%
Asian Language	2%	3%	Other Language	26%	27%
Other	0.5%	0.75%			

*Source:

EDUCATION

Nationwide

- By 2015, children of immigrants will constitute about 1/3 of the nation's school population.
- 1 out of every 5 school age children is a child of an immigrant.

Massachusetts

- In 2000, PLINE (Primary Language is not English) students represented 13.2% of the total student population in Massachusetts.
- 1 out of 8 PLINE students speaks a Southeast Asian language.
- Khmer replaced Chinese as the 3rd most frequently spoken language.

TOP 5 SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITH THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS UNABLE TO DO CLASS WORK IN ENGLISH (2002-3003)

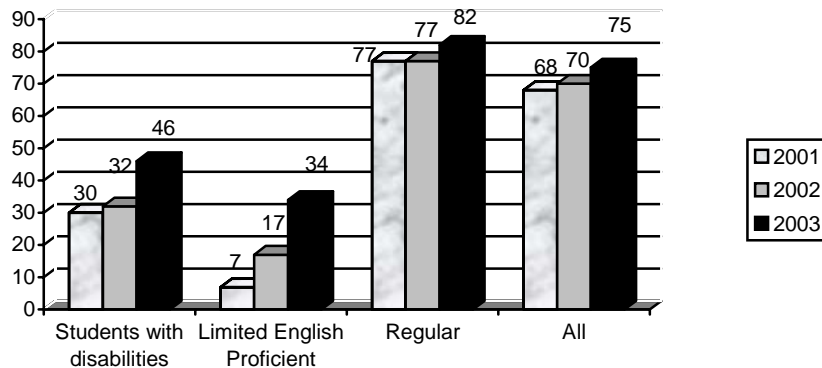
City	Total Enrolled	LEP*	Percent
Lawrence	12, 587	3, 358	26.7%
Boston	61, 1552	14, 964	24.3%
Holyoke	7, 255	1, 451	20.0%
Framingham	8, 364	1, 519	18.2%
Somerville	5, 757	1, 039	18.0%

*Limited English Proficient (LEP)- Students whose first language is not English and who cannot perform ordinary class work in English.

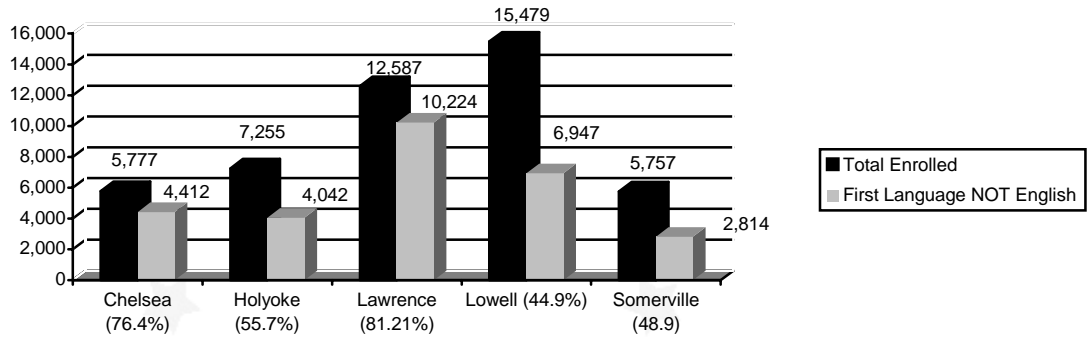
MCAS

In the last 3 MCAS exams, Limited English Proficient students in the 10th grade had the lowest first attempt passing rate in the state.

PERCENTAGE OF 10TH GRADERS BY STUDENT STATUS WHO EARNED A COMPETENCY DETERMINATION ON THE FIRST ATTEMPT



**SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITH THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS
WHOSE FIRST LANGUAGE IS NOT ENGLISH (2002-2003)**



First Language Not English (FLNE)- Includes (a) students born outside of the United States whose native language is not English, and (b) students born within the United States of Non-English speaking parents.

1998 AND 2000 PLINE (PRIMARY LANGUAGE IS NOT ENGLISH) STUDENTS

1999 Total Students Statewide	972, 260	2000 Total Students Statewide	979, 624
1999 Total PLINE Students	128, 555	2000 Total PLINE Students	129, 365
1999 % PLINE Students	13%	2000 % PLINE Students	13%

LANGUAGE	1998 TOTAL # SPOKEN	1998 % OF PLINE STUDENTS	2000 TOTAL # SPOKEN	2000 % OF PLINE STUDENTS
Spanish	65, 666	51.1%	65, 845	50.8%
Portuguese	12, 424	9.7%	12, 768	9.8%
Khmer	7, 601	5.9%	7, 294	5.6%
Chinese*	7, 212	5.6%	6, 863	5.3%
Vietnamese	6, 067	4.7%	5, 864	4.5%
Haitian Creole	4, 665	3.6%	4, 363	3.3%
Cape Verdian	4, 401	3.4%	4, 359	3.3%
Russian	3, 144	2.4%	3, 253	2.5%
French	1, 963	1.5%	2, 135	1.6%
Arabic	1, 394	1.1%	1, 484	1.1%
Greek	1, 047	0.8%	915	0.70%
Korean**	1, 019	0.8%	1, 022	0.79%

* Includes Mandrin, Cantonese, and Taiwanese

** Numbers of Korean compared to Greek have increased in the year 2000

***Source: Massachusetts Department of Education

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Anchor
Families:

Asylee: people who migrate to the U.S. seeking asylum after proving to be in danger of persecution and abuse in their former country on account of race, religion or political opinion, yet are not required to adjust to permanent resident status.

Free Cases:

ICE:

IRCA:

Immigrant: as defined by U.S. immigration law, are persons lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States. This definition fails to encompass the great number of people who have migrated into the United States without having been admitted under permanent resident status. Furthermore, within this definition there are different categories and legal entitlements into which immigrants may fall.

LEP:

LPR:

PLINE:

Refugee: people who migrate to the U.S. seeking asylum after proving to be in danger of persecution and abuse in their former country on account of race, religion or political opinion, yet are not required to adjust to permanent resident status.

Secondary
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TANF:

TPS:

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