

Texas: Quick Stats on Young Children and Workers Providing Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC)

Young Children under 6 in Texas

Among the 2,233,000 young children in Texas overall, 48 percent are Hispanic, 36 percent are white, 12 percent are black, and 4 percent are Asian. The top languages spoken in young children's homes are English only (51 percent), followed by Spanish (43 percent), Vietnamese (1 percent), Chinese (1 percent), and Arabic (less than 1 percent). Young children of immigrants constitute 34 percent of all children ages 5 and under in the state. The young child population's ethnic, racial, and linguistic diversity calls attention to the need for increased cultural and linguistic competence in the early childhood workforce in order to effectively serve these children and their families.

ECEC Workforce

The early childhood education and care (ECEC) workforce in Texas grew by 64 percent between 1990 and 2011-13. Today, immigrants make up 20 percent of the overall ECEC workforce, and the foreign-born ECEC workforce alone has grown by 247 percent in the past two decades. The average age of ECEC workers is 37, and an overwhelming majority (96 percent) is female.

Cultural and Linguistic Diversity

The ECEC workforce in Texas is very diverse, with approximately 45 percent identifying as white, 38 percent as Hispanic, 14 percent as black, and 3 percent as Asian. The languages spoken by ECEC workers reasonably reflect the languages represented in the young child population. Sixty-six percent speak only English, 30 percent speak Spanish, 1 percent Vietnamese, and less than 1 percent Urdu or Kru (each).

Immigrants provide much of the ethnic and language diversity present in the workforce and are therefore an important contributor of cultural and linguistic competence and skills in Texas.

Education, English Proficiency, and Professional Standing

Only 28 percent of ECEC workers in Texas overall have an associate's or higher degree. Thirteen percent are low educated, with less than a high school diploma. Immigrant ECEC workers are significantly more likely than their native counterparts to be low educated: 30 percent have attained less than a high school diploma, compared with only 7 percent of natives. On the other hand, a significant proportion of immigrant ECEC workers (24 percent) hold an associate's or higher degree.

Immigrants tend to be concentrated in lower-paying sectors of the workforce, with 27 percent of all immigrant workers employed as family-based care workers and 21 percent as private home-based child-care workers (versus 14 percent and 10 percent of natives, respectively). Conversely, only 14 percent of immigrant workers are employed as preschool teachers (compared with 30 percent of natives) and 3 percent as program directors (compared with 7 percent of natives). These data raise concerns about potential barriers to advancement for immigrant workers.

One such barrier to advancement may be the issue of limited English proficiency: 15 percent of the ECEC workforce overall, and 60 percent of immigrant ECEC workers, are classified as LEP.

Wages and Income

The average annual income for ECEC workers in Texas overall is \$22,000, which is \$1,000 less than the \$23,000 federal poverty level for a family of four. Overall, 18 percent of ECEC workers live in poverty in Texas. Immigrant ECEC workers are more likely to live in poverty than their native counterparts, at 23 percent compared with 17 percent of natives.

Number, Race and Ethnicity, and Top 5 Languages Spoken for All Children and Children of Immigrants under Age 6

Texas		
Children under 6	Total	Children of Immigrants
Size	2,233,000	747,000
Immigrant share (%)		33.5
Top 5 Languages Spoken at Home		
Language 1	English only	Spanish
Share language 1 (%)	51.3	77.5
Language 2	Spanish	English only
Share language 2 (%)	43.2	5.5
Language 3	Vietnamese	Vietnamese
Share language 3 (%)	0.8	2.1
Language 4	Chinese*	Chinese*
Share language 4 (%)	0.6	1.7
Language 5	Arabic	Arabic
Share language 5 (%)	0.4	1.1
Race/Ethnicity* (%)		
Non-Hispanic whites	35.8	8.7
Non-Hispanic blacks	11.8	2.9
Non-Hispanic Asians	4	10.7
Hispanics	48.2	77.6

Size, Growth, and Key Characteristics of the Total, Immigrant, and Native ECEC Workforce

Texas			
ECEC Workforce	Total	Immigrants	Natives
Size and Growth			
1990			
ECEC workforce (estimate)	84,000	8,000	76,000
Immigrant share (%)		9.6	
2011-13			
ECEC workforce (estimate)	138,000	28,000	110,000
Immigrant share (%)		20.2	
Percent change: 1990 to 2011-13	64.2	247.4	44.9
Characteristics in 2011-13			
Average age	37.3	42.2	36.1
Share female (%)	96	98.3	95.4
Top 5 Languages Spoken			
Language 1	English only	Spanish	English only
Share language 1 (%)	65.7	74	80.3
Language 2	Spanish	English only	Spanish
Share language 2 (%)	30.2	8.2	19.1
Language 3	Vietnamese	Vietnamese	Greek
Share language 3 (%)	0.6	2.7	0.1
Language 4	Urdu	Urdu	Arabic
Share language 4 (%)	0.4	1.8	0.1
Language 5	Kru	Kru	German*
Share language 5 (%)	0.3	1.3	0.1
English Proficiency			
Share limited English proficient (LEP)	14.8	60.1	3.3
Race/Ethnicity* (%)			
Non-Hispanic whites	44.8	8.5	54
Non-Hispanic blacks	13.9	4.1	16.3
Non-Hispanic Asians	3	12.4	0.7
Hispanics	38.2	75.1	28.8
Educational Attainment (%)			
Population ages 25 and older	102,000	25,000	77,000
Less than high school	12.9	29.8	7.4
High school/GED/Some college	58.9	46	63
Associate's or higher	28.3	24.2	29.6

Occupational Groups (%)			
Population ages 16 and older	138,000	28,000	110,000
Family-based child-care worker	16.4	27.3	13.6
Private home-based child-care worker	12.5	21.6	10.1
Teacher assistant	4.3	4.2	4.3
Preschool teacher	26.6	13.8	29.8
Center-based child-care worker	34.3	30.1	35.4
Director of programs	5.9	3	6.7
Average Annual Earned Income (\$)***			
All workers	22,000	21,000	22,000
Poverty (%)			
Under 100 percent poverty	17.7	22.7	16.5
100-199 percent poverty	25.5	33.5	23.4
200 percent or higher	56.8	43.8	60.1

Notes: *Chinese includes Chinese, Mandarin and Cantonese; German refers to German and Pennsylvania Dutch.

* Other race is not included due to small numbers

** Workers who worked full time year around and earned at least 1 dollar in previous year

This fact sheet is based on analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau's 2011-13 (pooled) American Community Survey (ACS). For definitions and national-level trends, see *Immigrant and Refugee Workers in the Early Childhood Field: Taking a Closer Look*, www.migrationpolicy.org/research/immigrant-and-refugee-workers-early-childhood-field-taking-closer-look.

Limited English Proficient (LEP) status applies to persons who reported speaking English less than "very well" in the ACS.

The 2012 federal poverty threshold for a family of four with two children under age 18 was \$23,283 and for an unrelated individual, \$11,720. See U.S. Census Bureau, "Poverty Thresholds for 2012 by Size of Family and Number of Related Children under 18 Years," accessed April 3, 2015, www.census.gov/hhes/www/poverty/data/threshld/.

This state fact sheet is a project of the Migration Policy Institute's National Center on Immigrant Integration Policy. For more on the Center, visit: www.migrationpolicy.org/integration.

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