**Immigrant Kindergartners in the United States**

What percentage of U.S. kindergartners were born in the United States?

98% of kindergartners in 2010–2011 were born in the United States.

Citizenship status of U.S. kindergartners born outside the United States

Of the 2% of kindergartners who were born outside of the United States, 45% were U.S. citizens in the 2010–2011 school year.

Of approximately 4 million kindergartners in the 2010–2011 school year, about 976,000, or 24 percent, were first- or second-generation immigrant children.1

**Place of Origin**

Most first- and second-generation immigrant kindergartners or their parents were born in North American countries outside the United States or in Asia.2

**Languages Spoken at Home**

In homes of first- and second-generation immigrant kindergartners, English is most often spoken as the primary language, followed by Spanish.

43% English

31% Spanish

26% Other language

**Exposure to Languages Other Than English**

First- and second-generation immigrant kindergartners can be exposed to languages other than English at home in a variety of ways. This language could be the primary language, a secondary language, or the language of adults in the household.

54% of first- and second-generation immigrant kindergartners are exposed to Spanish.

5% of first- and second-generation immigrant kindergartners are exposed to each of the next most common languages: Arabic, Chinese, and an Indian subcontinent language.

**Exposure to Spanish by U.S. Region**

More first- and second-generation immigrant kindergartners are exposed to Spanish in households located in the South or West regions of the United States than in households located in the Northeast or Midwest.

62% West

62% South

33% Midwest

33% Northeast

**Notes**

1 First- and second-generation immigrant kindergartners are children who were born outside of the United States or who both at least one parent who was born outside of the United States.

2 Data may vary more than 30% because first- and second-generation immigrant kindergartners and their parents may have come from multiple countries.


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