

# Immigrant Children, Youth, and Families in Massachusetts

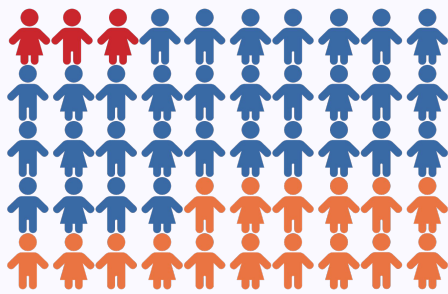


## 1 in 5 Massachusetts residents is 18 and under

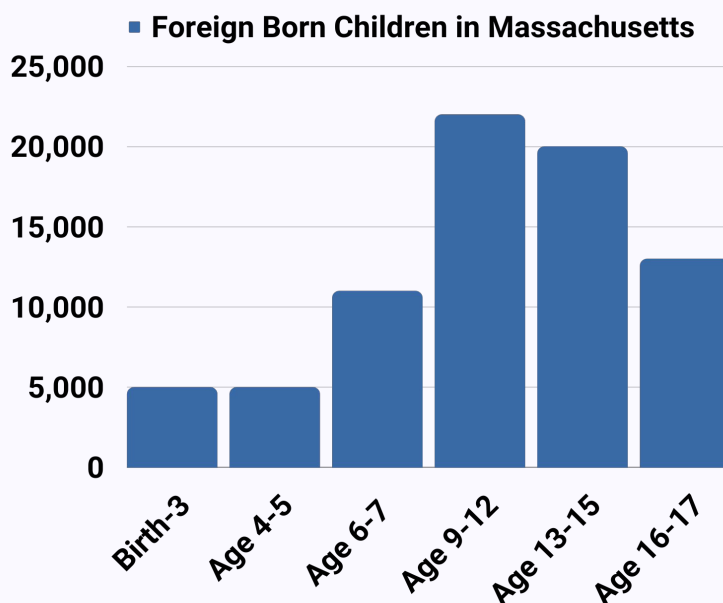
Approximately 20% of Massachusetts' population is aged 18 and under. Six percent of children living in Massachusetts are foreign born, and nearly a third of children in the state have at least one foreign born parent. The largest group of foreign born children in Massachusetts are between 9 and 12 years old. About 21,000 foreign born children have limited English proficiency.

There is a need for the Commonwealth to invest heavily in education, with a special emphasis on early childhood education, and strengthen social safety net programs in order to ensure a bright and promising future for Massachusetts children.

**3 in every 50 children are foreign born.**



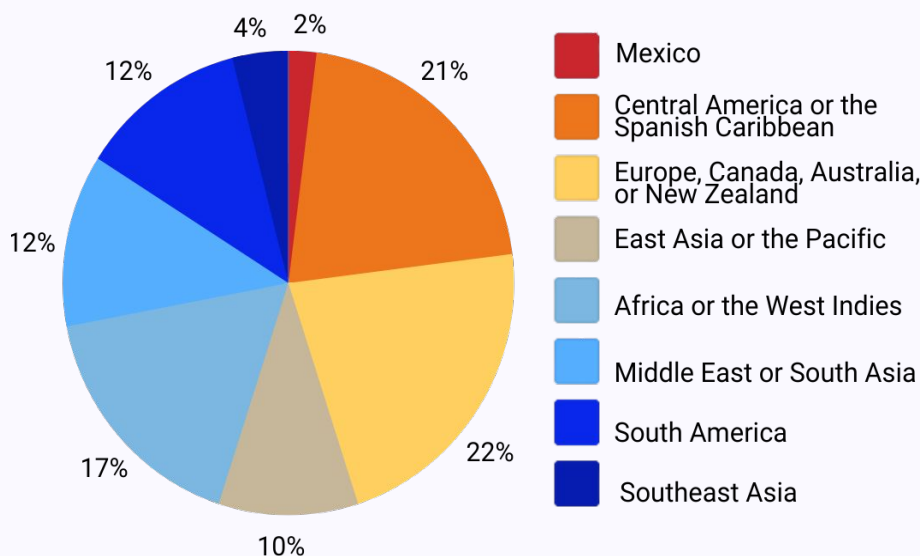
**16 in every 50 children have at least one foreign born parent.**



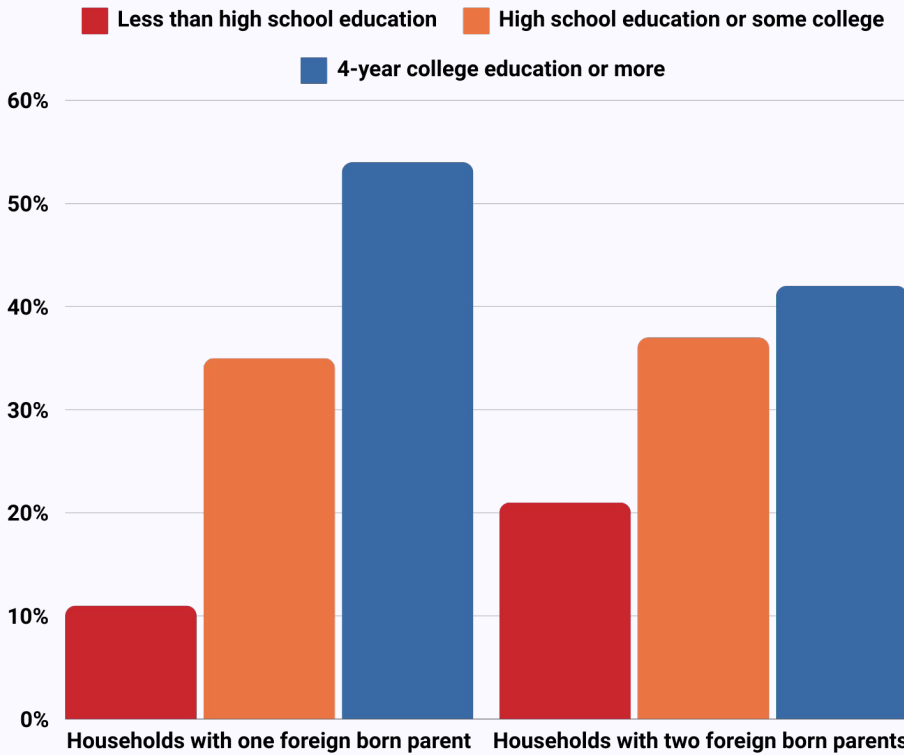
## Origins of Foreign Born Parents in Massachusetts

**32% of Massachusetts children have a foreign born parent.**

The majority of Massachusetts foreign born parents originate from Europe, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Central America or the Spanish Caribbean.



# Educational Attainment of Massachusetts Households with Foreign Born Parents



An estimated 31,000 children in Massachusetts have at least one parent who is a limited proficient English speaker and 150,000 children in Massachusetts have two parents who are limited English proficient.

There are **198,000 children in Massachusetts who are bilingual** and 115,894 Spanish speakers who are between the ages of 5-17 years old.<sup>2</sup>

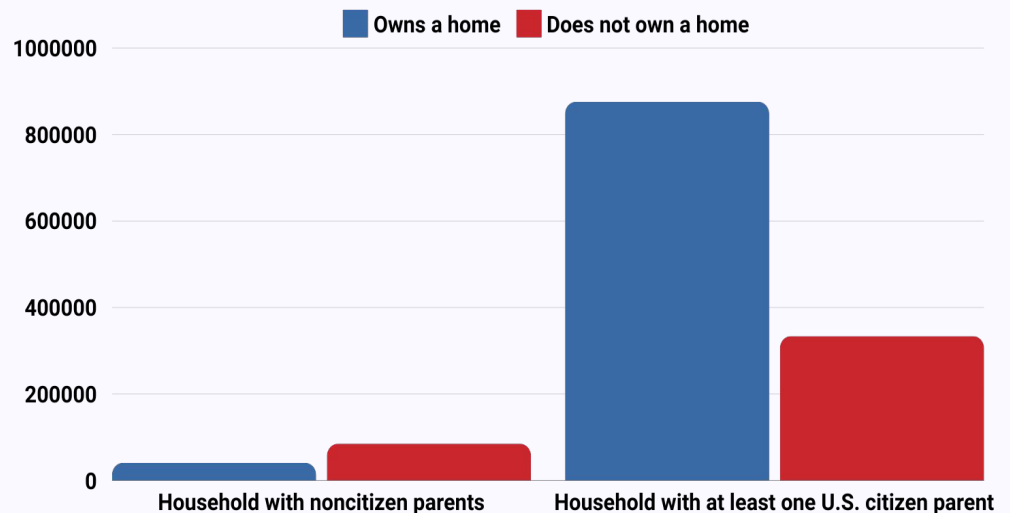
On September 13, 2023, a Texas federal court found the **Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)** program unlawful. The Biden administration then reissued the program through federal regulations, and litigation is ongoing. **The present status of the program allows current DACA holders to continue to renew, although initial DACA applications are not currently being processed.** As of September 2023, there are 4,500 active DACA recipients in Massachusetts.<sup>3</sup>

## 42% of foreign born children in Massachusetts are low income.



34.8% of households with at least one foreign born parent are burdened by housing and utility costs. Meanwhile, 50.3% of noncitizen parent households are burdened by housing and utility costs.

# Home Ownership among Massachusetts Households and Citizenship Status of Parents





There are **8,000 children** in Massachusetts with **at least one foreign born parent and at least one veteran parent**. There are 1,000 children with only noncitizen parents with at least one veteran parent.



Among households with at least one foreign born parent, **7% of the parents have a disability**.



**Advocate for Massachusetts immigrant children by supporting the following state legislative priorities:**

**An Act to ensure equitable health coverage for children (S.740, H.1237)**, would expand comprehensive MassHealth coverage to children and young adults whose only barrier to eligibility is their immigration status.

**An Act establishing basic needs assistance for Massachusetts immigrant residents (H.135, S.76)** would restore basic food benefits and basic cash benefits for low-income, legally present immigrants living in Massachusetts.

**Extend eligibility for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) to immigrants who file taxes with an Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN) (H.2762, S.1793, S.1798)**

Despite paying taxes, immigrant workers who pay and file taxes using an ITIN are excluded from claiming the EITC. Extending eligibility would further the equity impact of the credit and create consistency in MA refundable family tax credits.

In 2022 there were **7,083 foreign born grandparents** in Massachusetts who were responsible for their own grandchildren under 18 years old.<sup>4</sup>

About **60,000 children** in Massachusetts (under the age of 18) **have at least one undocumented family member**.<sup>5</sup>



Note: This factsheet was last updated March 2024

1. Unless otherwise stated, information is sourced from Urban Institute's data from the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series datasets drawn from the 2005 - 2021 American Community Survey. Retrieved October 16, 2023, from <https://children-of-immigrants-explorer.urban.org/pages.cfm>
2. U.S. Census Bureau. (2022). Language Spoken at Home. *American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S1601*. Retrieved October 16, 2023, from <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2022.S1601?q=language+Massachusetts>
3. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Office of Performance and Quality ELIS, CLAIMS3, queried 12/2023, TRK 13219. Retrieved March 14, 2024 from [https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/data/active\\_daca\\_recipients\\_fy23\\_q4.pdf](https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/data/active_daca_recipients_fy23_q4.pdf)
4. U.S. Census Bureau. (2022). Nativity by Grandparents Responsible for Own Grandchildren Under 18 Years by Age of Grandparent. *American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B10053*. Retrieved October 16, 2023, from <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2022.B10053?q=foreign+born+children+massachusetts>
5. The FWD.us. methodology used to describe the undocumented population includes those without legal status in addition to those with protections such as asylum seekers, DACA recipients, and TPS holders. Retrieved March 14, 2024, from <https://www.fwd.us/news/mixed-status-families-1/>