TRENDS IN IMMIGRATION AND MIGRATION OF ENGLISH AND DUAL LANGUAGE LEARNERS

Randy Capps
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ACS Data Undercount English Learners

• American Community Survey (ACS), 2008-12 data count **2.6 million** ELs ages 5-18, enrolled in school.
  
  • Based on household survey
  • “Speak English less than very well”
  • Self-reported (by parents)

• ACS data count **12 million** children 5-18, enrolled in school, speaking a language other than English:
  
  • The EL share is only **22 percent** of this total.

• U.S. Department of Education data count **4.85 million** EL children enrolled in grades K-12.

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ACS Data Show Number of English Learners Dropping since 2000

- ELs ages 5-18, enrolled in school, dropped from 3.4 million to 2.6 million (by 23%) from 2000 Census to 2008-12 ACS.

- Children speaking a language other than English at home rose from 9.9 million to 12 million (by 21%).

- The share of children speaking another language who were EL fell from 34% to 22%.

- Were parents more likely to inflate their children’s English language ability in 2008-12?
EL Student Populations Fell in Most States

Percent change in English learners (ages 5-18 and enrolled in school), 2000 to 2008-12

Source: MPI analysis of 2000 Census, 2008-12 ACS
Students Speaking Other Languages Rose in Most States, 2008-12

Percent change in children speaking a language other than English (ages 5-18 and enrolled in school), 2000 to 2008-12

Source: MPI analysis of 2000 Census, 2008-12 ACS
Percent English learners among enrolled children ages 5-18, 2008-12

Source: MPI analysis of 2008-12 ACS
Share Speaking a Language other than English at Home Was Much Higher (45%)

Percent Speaking a Language other than English among enrolled children ages 5-18, 2008-12

Source: MPI analysis of 2008-12 ACS
U.S. Education Dept Data Also Show Higher Shares of English Learners

Percent English learners among K-12 students, 2012-13 school year (Ed Data)

Source: Migration Policy Institute calculations based on data obtained through the U.S. Department of Education Data Express Tool. Data on the total student enrollment derive from the Common Core of Data (CCD). Data on enrollment of ELL students by state derive from the Consolidated State Performance Report (CSPR).

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Enrollment of English Learners Lagged at Age 5 and Ages 15-18

Percent of English learners ages 5-18 who were enrolled in school

Source: MPI analysis of 2008-12 ACS
English Learners Were Disproportionately Low Income

Percent of enrolled children ages 5-18 with family incomes below 185 percent of the federal poverty level, 2008-12

Source: MPI analysis of 2008-12 ACS
English Learners Were Disproportionately Latino, Asian

Race/ethnicity of enrolled children ages 5-18, 2008-12

Source: MPI analysis of 2008-12 ACS
About Three Quarters of English Learners Spoke Spanish

Top 10 languages spoken by English learners (ages 5-18 and enrolled in school), 2008-12

- Spanish, 73%
- Chinese, 4%
- Vietnamese, 3%
- French, 2%
- Hindi and related, 2%
- German, 2%
- Arabic, 1%
- Filipino, Tagalog, 1%
- Yiddish, Jewish, 1%
- Other, 10%

Source: MPI analysis of 2008-12 ACS
U.S.-Born Share of ELs Fell from 90% at Age 5 to 50% at Age 18

Immigrant generation of English learners (ages 5-18 and enrolled in school), 2008-12

Source: MPI analysis of 2008-12 ACS
Analysis was conducted of % EL for children ages 5-17 and % linguistically isolated (residing in households where all members ages 14 and older are ELs) for ages 0-4. Analysis includes only children with an immigrant parent.

Source: MPI analysis 2013 ACS by Colin Hammar and James Bachmeier, Temple University
Very Few EL Children Were Unauthorized Themselves, Except at Higher Ages (12-17)

Percent unauthorized and legal immigrants among children of immigrants who were ELs or linguistically isolated*, 2013

Note: Analysis was conducted of % EL for children ages 5-17 and % linguistically isolated (residing in households where all members ages 14 and older are ELs) for ages 0-4. Analysis includes only children with an immigrant parent. 
Source: MPI analysis 2013 ACS by Colin Hammar and James Bachmeier, Temple University
**ELs Less Likely to Be Eligible for DACA than Other Unauthorized Youth**

Number of unauthorized children ages 15-17 eligible for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), by school enrollment and English-learner status, 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total Unauthorized</th>
<th>DACA Eligible</th>
<th>Percent DACA Eligible</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total unauthorized children</td>
<td>324,000</td>
<td>244,000</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enrolled in school</td>
<td>291,000</td>
<td>240,000</td>
<td>82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English learners</td>
<td>108,000</td>
<td>59,000</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English learners and enrolled in school</td>
<td>86,000</td>
<td>57,000</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: MPI analysis 2013 ACS by Colin Hammar and James Bachmeier, Temple University*
Conclusion

• ACS data significantly undercount English learners when compared with school data.

• ACS data show high correlation between English-learner and low-income status, over-representation of Latino and Asian children

• 90% of English learners are children of immigrants:
  • Most are U.S.-born, but foreign-born % rises with age
  • About half have unauthorized parents
  • Fewer than 10% are unauthorized (about 250,000 out of 2.6 million).
For More Information

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For estimates of unauthorized immigrants eligible for DAPA and DACA at the national, state and county levels, visit bit.ly/unauthdata

For detailed U.S., state, and county profiles of unauthorized immigrants, visit bit.ly/unauthdata.

For more data on U.S. immigrants, visit the MPI Data Hub: www.migrationpolicy.org/databhub

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