

WHAT'S NEW WITH KIDS?

May 2009

Site of the Month

Children in Immigrant Families

Dr. Mark Mather, a sociologist/demographer at the Population Reference Bureau (PRB), authored a report titled *Children in Immigrant Families Chart New Path*. The report, released February 2009, focuses on two topics: 1) the changing mix of race/ethnicity in the U.S. due to immigrants and 2) the well-being of children in immigrant families. In this newsletter, I focus on the latter topic.

The number of children in immigrant families grew from 8,331,000 in 1990 to 16,548,000 in 2007, a twofold increase. The well-being of the children in immigrant families is of concern. In 2007, 21 percent of children in immigrant families lived in poverty compared to 17 percent of children in U.S.-born families.

Mather calculated the percentage of children in immigrant families who had parental risk factors to determine if they were at risk of negative outcomes, such as poverty. If children of immigrants had at least three of the following four parental risk factors, they were considered to be at high risk: 1) neither parent is proficient in English, 2) neither parent is a U.S. citizen, 3) neither parent has more than a 9th grade education, and 4) neither parent has been in the country more than 10 years. His findings for the U.S., Nevada, and states that border Nevada are presented in the table on the following page.

Of the six states, Arizona and Idaho had the highest percentage of children of immigrants with three or more risk factors in 2007 (tied at 25 percent). Nevada, with 19 percent, tied with California.

Also discussed in the report are state and local reactions to immigration and prospects for a more racially/ethnically diverse U.S.

Mark Mather is associate vice president of Domestic Programs at the PRB. He also conducts research for the Annie E. Casey Foundation. His report is available at: <http://www.prb.org/pdf09/immigrantchildren.pdf>.

**Percent of Children of Immigrant Families At Risk
in the U.S., Nevada, and States
That Border Nevada: 2007**

	Percent with Three or More Risk Factors
U.S.	18
Arizona	25
California	19
Idaho	25
Nevada	19
Oregon	23
Utah	18

Note: "Children of immigrant families are classified as having a high risk of negative outcomes if they have at least three of the following characteristics: neither parent is proficient in English, neither parent is a U.S. citizen, neither parent has more than a 9th grade education, neither parent has been in the United States more than 10 years."

Source: PRB analysis of the 2007 American Community Survey.