

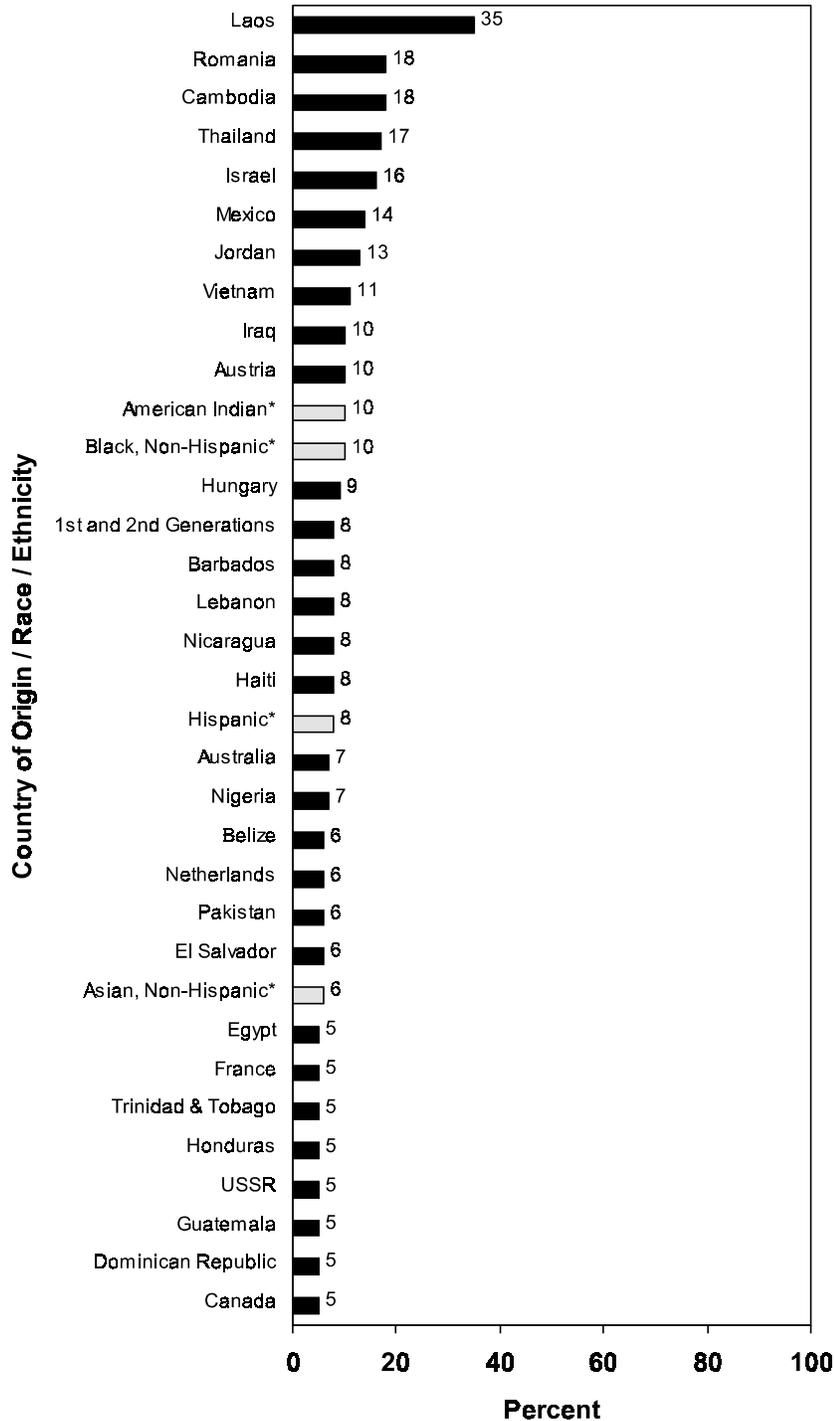
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## **FAMILIES WITH MANY SIBLINGS**

While the proportion of children living in one-parent families increased, sometimes dramatically, from the second to the third generation, the proportion of children living in a family with a large number of siblings declined consistently across generations (Hernandez and Darke, 1999). Specifically, the proportion of children living in families with 5 or more siblings in 1990 dropped from 17 to 9 to 5 percent, respectively, between the first, second, and third and later generations (Figure 23 and 24, and Tables A and B). For most specific countries of origin, not only did the second generation in 1990 have smaller proportions in large families than first-generation children from the same countries, the proportions usually were similar to third- and later-generation non-Hispanic white children, at 10 percent or less for the second generation. Risk levels for third- and later-generation children also were similar, overall, to third- and later-generation non-Hispanic whites.

Figure 25 (Part 1)

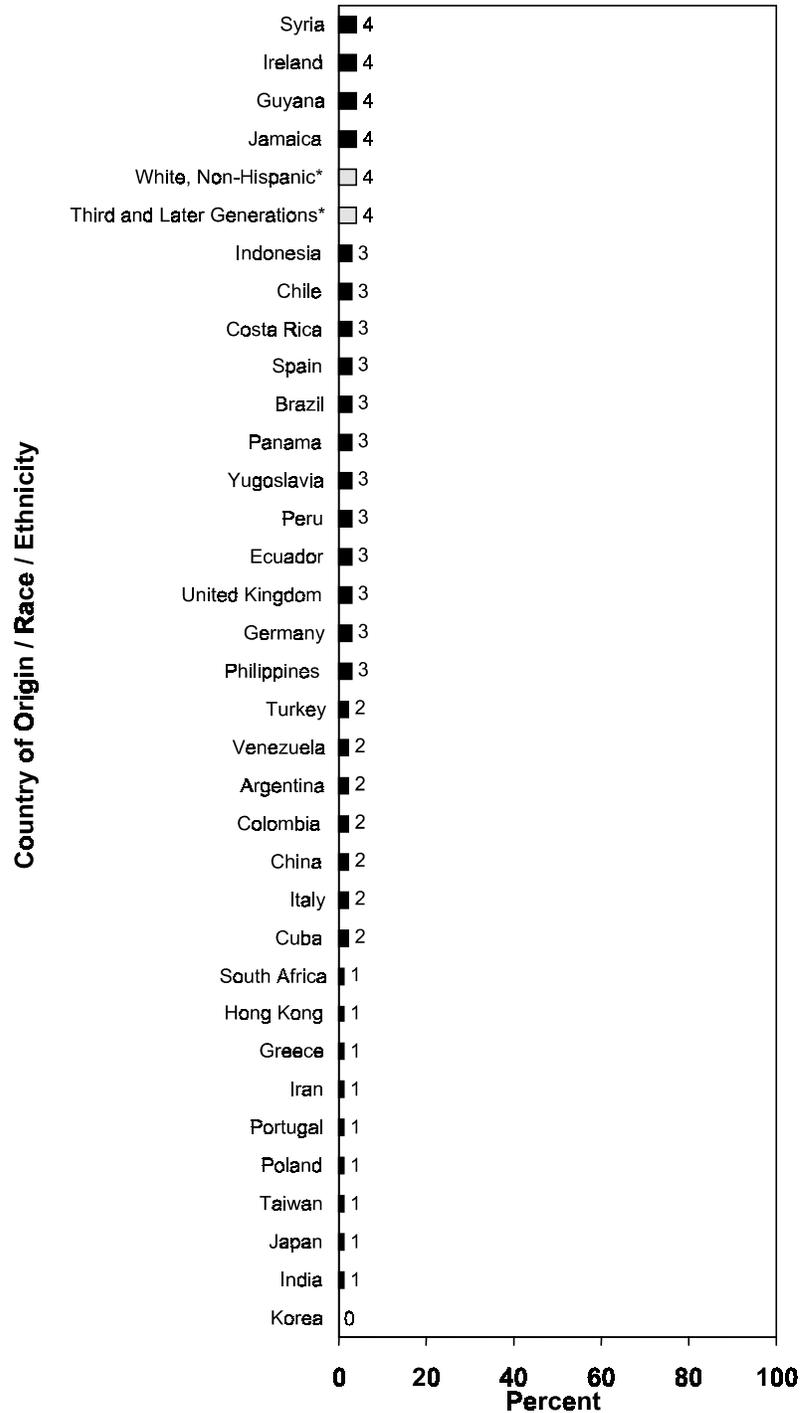
Percent in Families with Five or More Siblings for First- and Second-Generation Children by Country of Origin, and Third-and-Later-Generation Children by Race and Ethnicity: 1990



\* Third-and-later-generation children shaded lightly.  
 Note: See Technical Appendix for description of variables.  
 Source: Table A and Hernandez and Darke, 1999.

Figure 25 (Part 2)

Percent in Families with Five or More Siblings for First- and Second-Generation Children by Country of Origin, and Third-and-Later-Generation Children by Race and Ethnicity: 1990



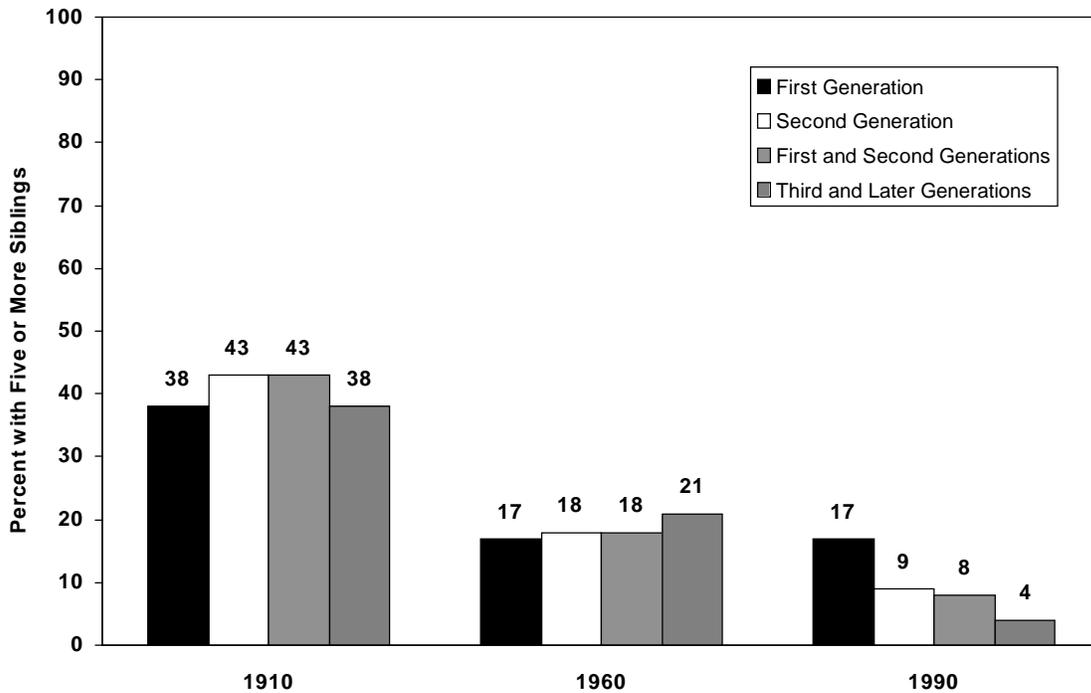
\* Third-and-later-generation children shaded lightly.

Note: See Technical Appendix for description of variables.

Source: Table A and Hernandez and Darke, 1999.

Figure 26

Percent in Families with Five or More Siblings for First-, Second-, and Third- and-Later-Generation Children: 1910, 1960, and 1990



Note: See Technical Appendix for description of variables.

Source: Tables A and B, and calculated from 1910 Census and 1960 Census IPUMS files.

Nonetheless, among children in immigrant families from the 12 countries of origin with very high poverty rates, 4 of the 5 that did not have high proportions in one-parent families (excluding only the former Soviet Union) did have high proportions with large numbers of siblings, and children in immigrant families from 3 countries experienced elevated proportions living with one-parent only and with a large number of siblings (Cambodia, Haiti, and Nicaragua) (Figure 25 and Table A).

In 1960 and 1910, first-, second-, and later-generation children were about equally likely to live in families with many siblings, at 17 to 21 percent in 1960, and 38 to 43 percent in 1910 (Figure 26). In 1910 and 1960, respectively, an extraordinary 51 and 58 percent of first-generation children with Mexican origins lived in large families, but the proportion declined for the second generation from 61 to 57 percent between 1910 and 1960, and for the third and later generations from 59 to 40 percent. Meanwhile the proportion of black children in families with 5 or more siblings remained about constant at 45 to 48 percent.

By 1990, the proportions with 5 or more siblings were much smaller for all groups. Among first-, second- and third-, and later-generation Mexican-origin children, respectively, 29, 16, and 8 percent lived in families with 5 or more siblings; thus, among third- and later-generation children, those of Mexican origin were about as likely as blacks to live in large families, at 8 and 9 percent, respectively, and somewhat more likely than non-Hispanic whites to live in such families (4 percent).

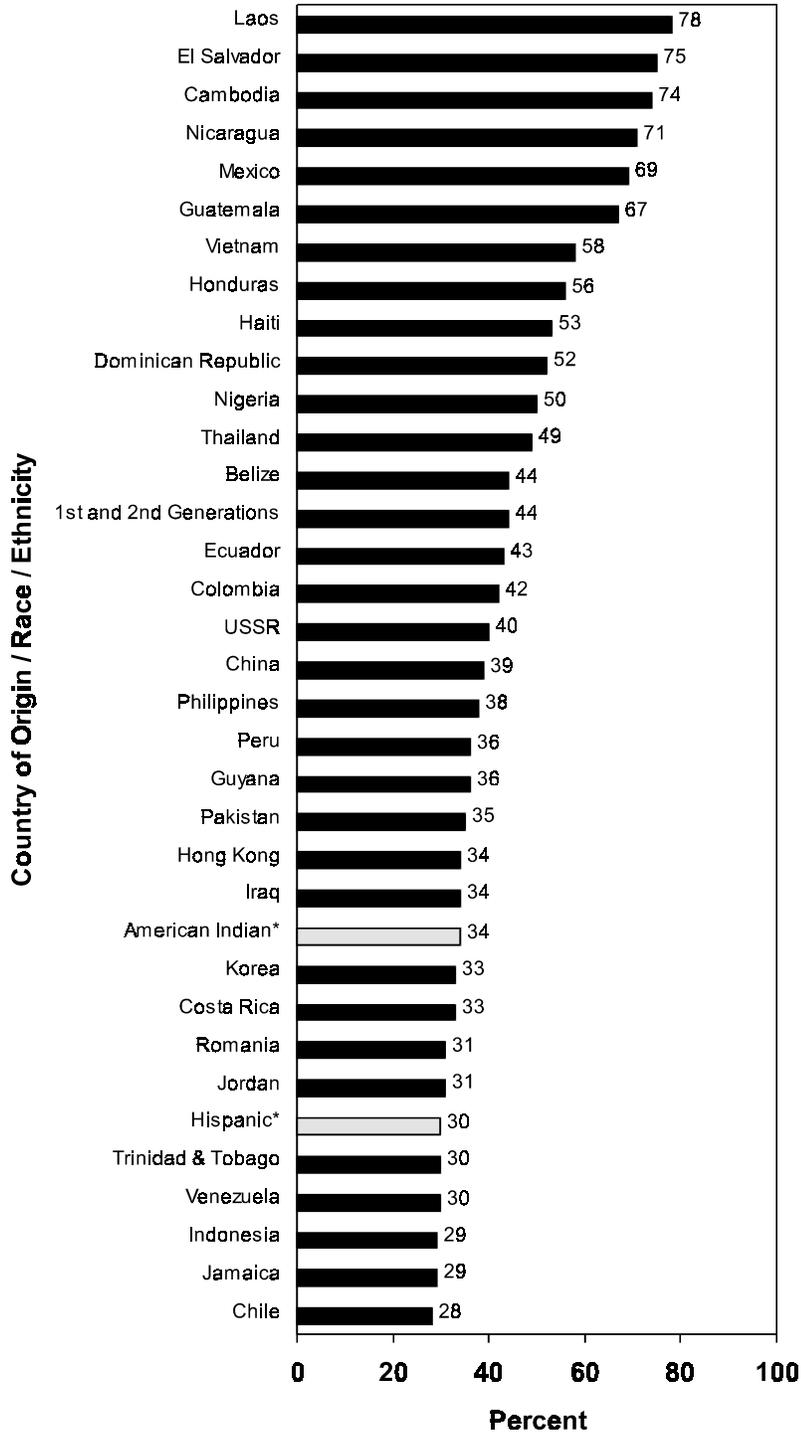
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## **OVERCROWDED HOUSING**

Only 12 percent of third- and later-generation children lived in overcrowded housing with more than one person per room in 1990, compared to 38 percent for the second generation, and 62 percent for the first generation (Figure 28) (Hernandez and Darke, 1999). Children in immigrant families from most specific countries of origin in 1990 also had high proportions living in overcrowded housing, although children in immigrant families from the 12 countries with very high poverty were much more likely than most to live in such conditions (Figure 27). For children from most of these 12 countries, declines in overcrowding are substantial between the first and second, and, where measurable, between the second and the third and later generations (Tables A-2 and A-3). But third and higher generations continue to experience high levels of overcrowding, especially Mexican-origin children at an extraordinary 31 percent, which is similar to the 26 and 33 percent experienced, respectively, by black and American Indian children, and 5 times greater than the 7 percent experienced by third- and later-generation non-Hispanic white children.

Figure 27 (Part 1)

Percent Living in Overcrowded Housing for First- and Second-Generation Children by Country of Origin, and Third-and-Later-Generation Children by Race and Ethnicity: 1990



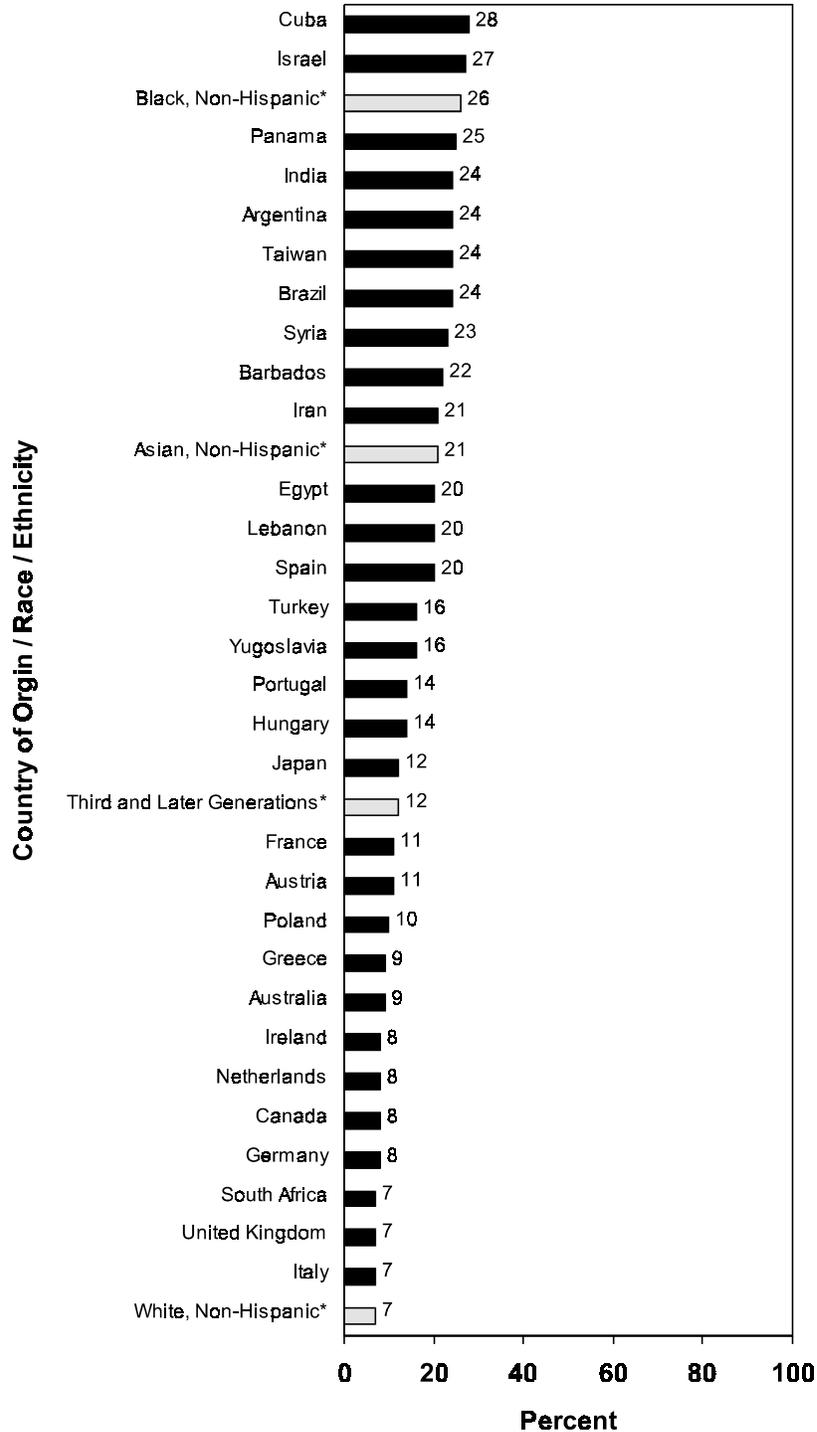
\* Third-and-later-generation children shaded lightly.

Note: See Technical Appendix for description of variables.

Source: Table A and Hernandez and Darke, 1999.

Figure 27 (Part 2)

Percent Living in Overcrowded Housing for First- and Second-Generation Children by Country of Origin, and Third-and-Later-Generation Children by Race and Ethnicity: 1990



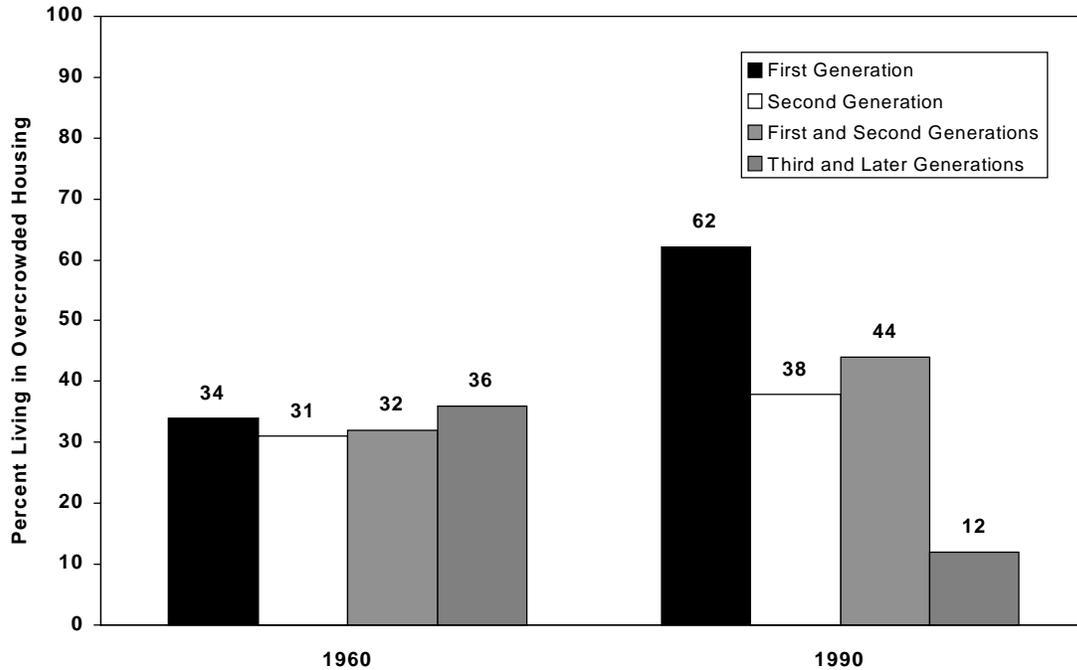
\* Third-and-later-generation children shaded lightly.

Note: See Technical Appendix for description of variables.

Source: Table A and Hernandez and Darke, 1999.

Figure 28

Percent Living in Overcrowded Housing for First-, Second, and Third-and-Later-Generation Children: 1960 and 1990



Note: See Technical Appendix for description of variables.

Source: Tables A and B, and calculated from 1960 Census IPUMS file.

Overall levels of overcrowding were much higher among children in 1960 than in 1990, but they were about equal for first-, second-, and third- and later-generation children at 31-36 percent (Figure 28); however, 75 percent of first- and second-generation Mexican-origin children, and 69-70 percent of black children and third- and higher-generation children of Mexican origin lived in crowded conditions in 1960.

## POTENTIAL RISK FACTORS SPECIFIC TO CHILDREN IN IMMIGRANT FAMILIES

First- and second-generation children with origins in countries where English is not the native language, or is not widely taught, may be at special risk, compared to children in third- and later-generation children, because they may not themselves speak English well, or they may live with parents who do not speak English well. A lack of English fluency can limit effective communication and functioning in health facilities, schools, or other settings that provide essential resources to children and their families. U.S. citizens have easier access to resources than do non-citizens, and various states differ enormously in economic context and resources; thus, the citizenship status of children in immigrant families and their parents, as well as the states in which they settle, may have important implications for child well-being and development.

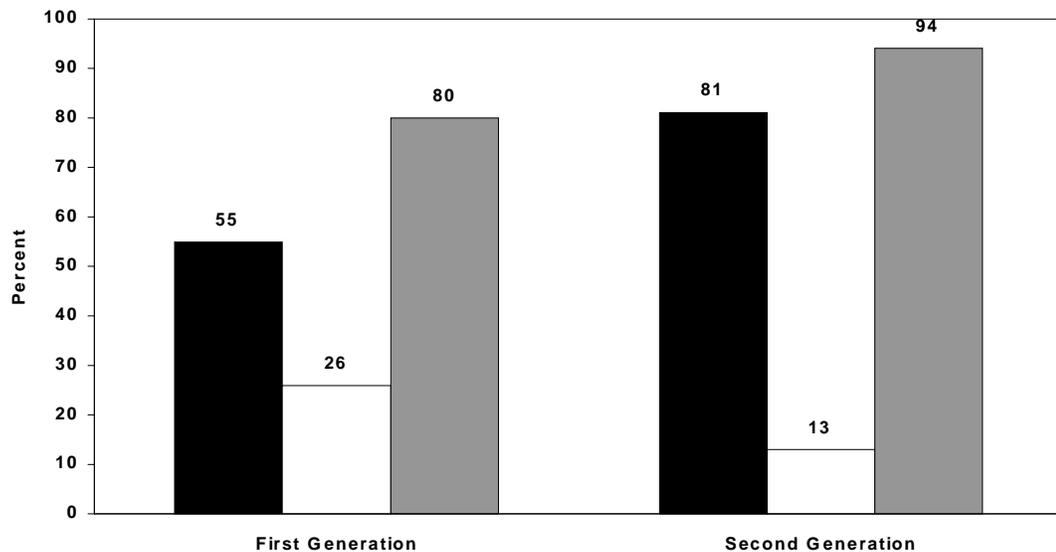
## ENGLISH LANGUAGE FLUENCY

At least 60 percent of children in immigrant families from most countries of origin spoke a language other than English at home in 1990 (Hernandez and Darke, 1999). The exceptions were English-speaking countries of origin, as well as Austria, Germany, Netherlands, Nigeria, and South Africa. But for only 13 countries of origin did the proportion of children in immigrant families not speaking English exclusively or very well reach 30 percent or more (Table A). Eleven of these countries are among the 12 with children who have the highest poverty rates (excluding only Haiti), and the remaining two were China and Hong Kong.

Generational differences are large, however, as the proportion who speak English exclusively or very well rises from only 55 percent for the first generation to 81 percent for the second generation (Figures 29, 30, and 31); thus, by the second generation the vast majority of children speak English exclusively or very well. However, an additional 26 percent of first-generation children and 13 percent of second-generation children are reported as speaking English well; thus, the proportion speaking English well, very well, or exclusively is quite high for both the first and second generations, at 80 and 94 percent, respectively. The proportion speaking English exclusively or very well among children in immigrant families from 11 of the 12 countries with very high poverty rates is in the range of 35 to 53 percent for the first generation, but this rises to large majorities for 10 of 12 countries (excluding Cambodia and Laos) to 65 to 91 percent for the second generation.

Figure 29

### Percent Speaking English "Exclusively" or "Very Well" or Speaking English "Well" for First- and Second-Generation Children: 1990



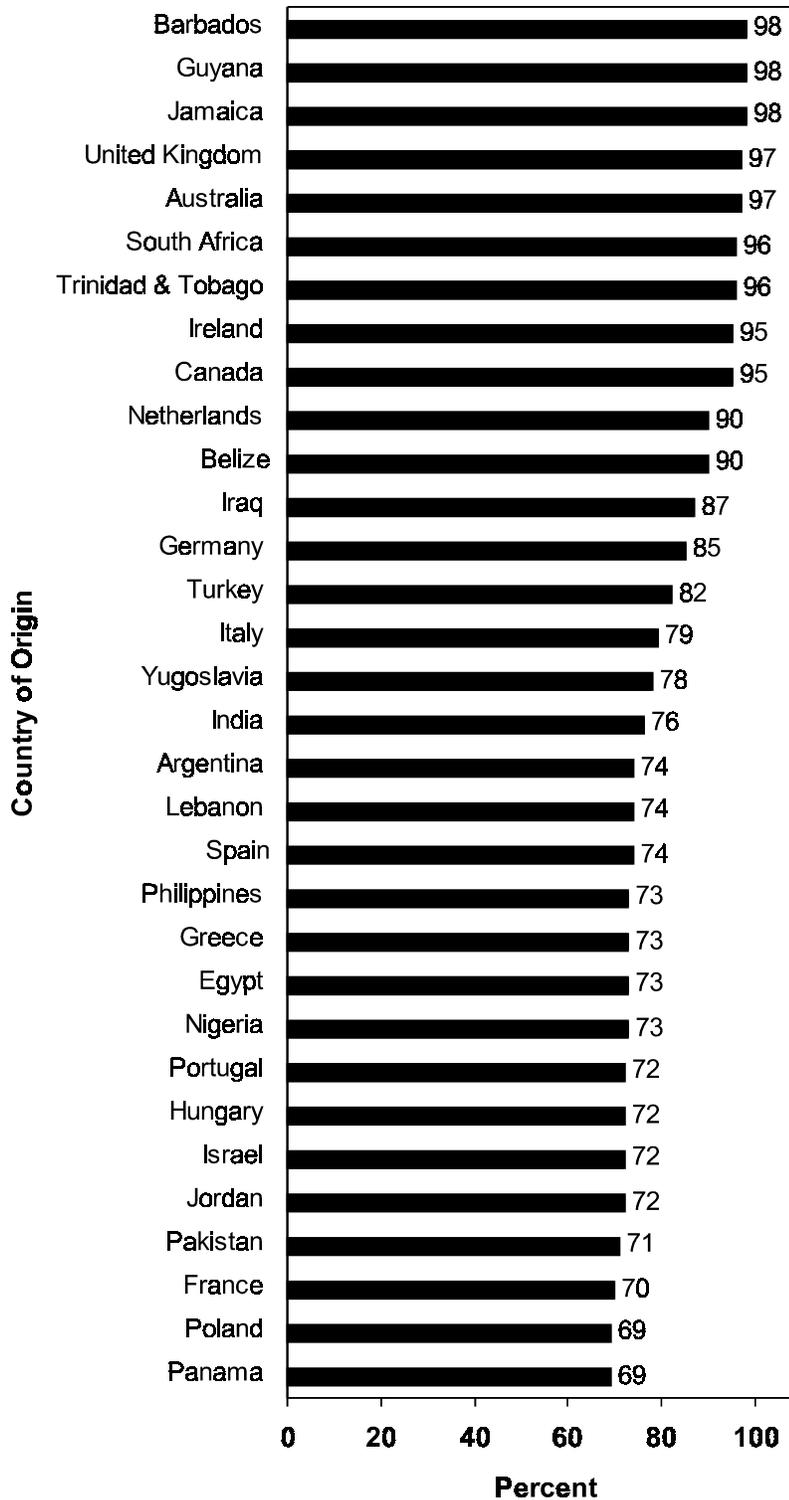
■ Speaks English "Exclusively" or "Very Well" □ Speaks English "Well" ■ Speaks English "Exclusively," "Very Well," or "Well"

Note: See Technical Appendix for description of variables.

Source: Table B and calculated from 1990 Census PUMS file.

Figure 30 (Part 1)

Percent of First Generation Children Speaking English "Exclusively" or "Very Well" by Country of Origin: 1990

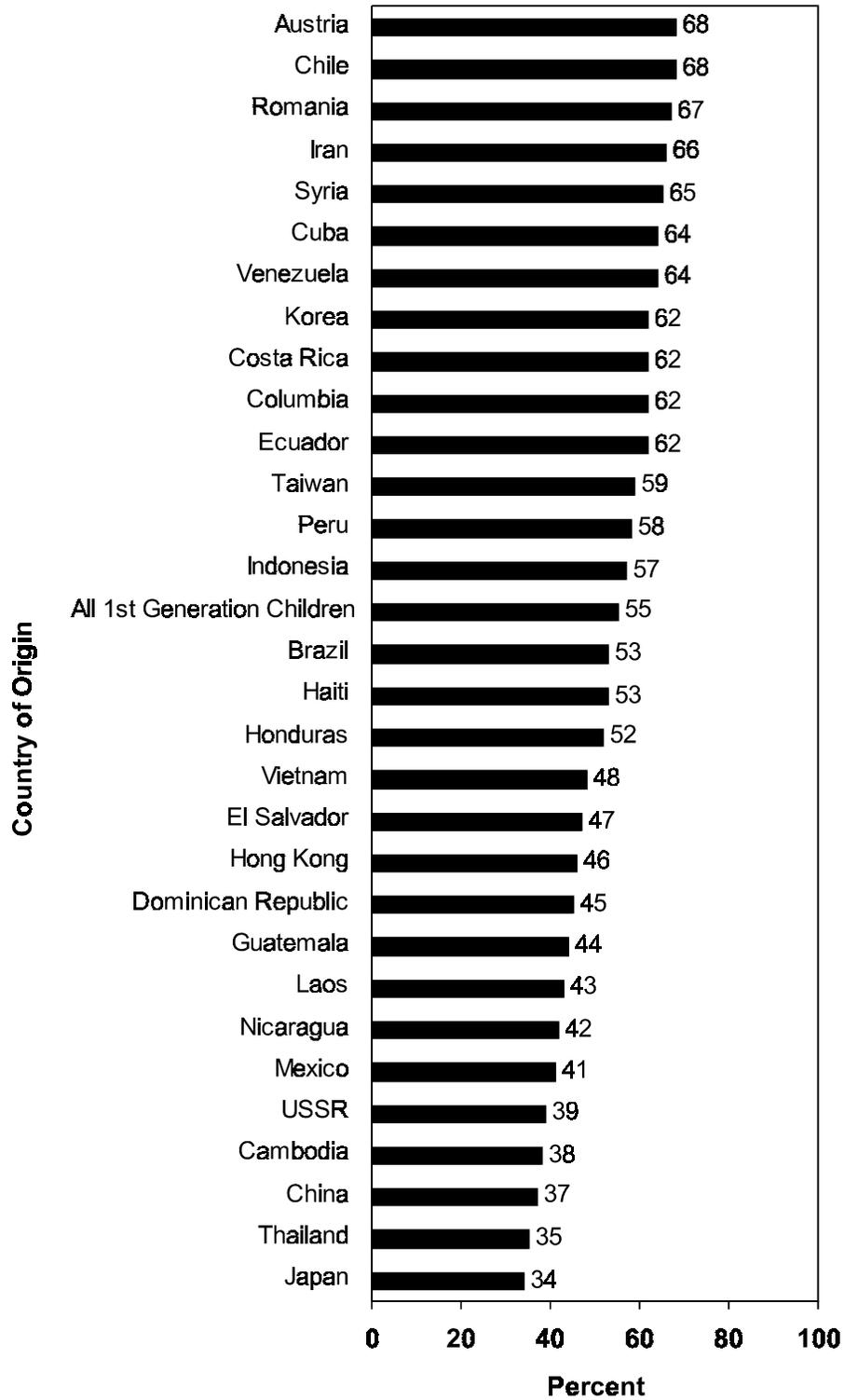


Note: See Technical Appendix for description of variables.

Source: Table B and Hernandez and Darke, 1999.

Figure 30 (Part 1)

Percent of First Generation Children Speaking English "Exclusively" or "Very Well" by Country of Origin: 1990

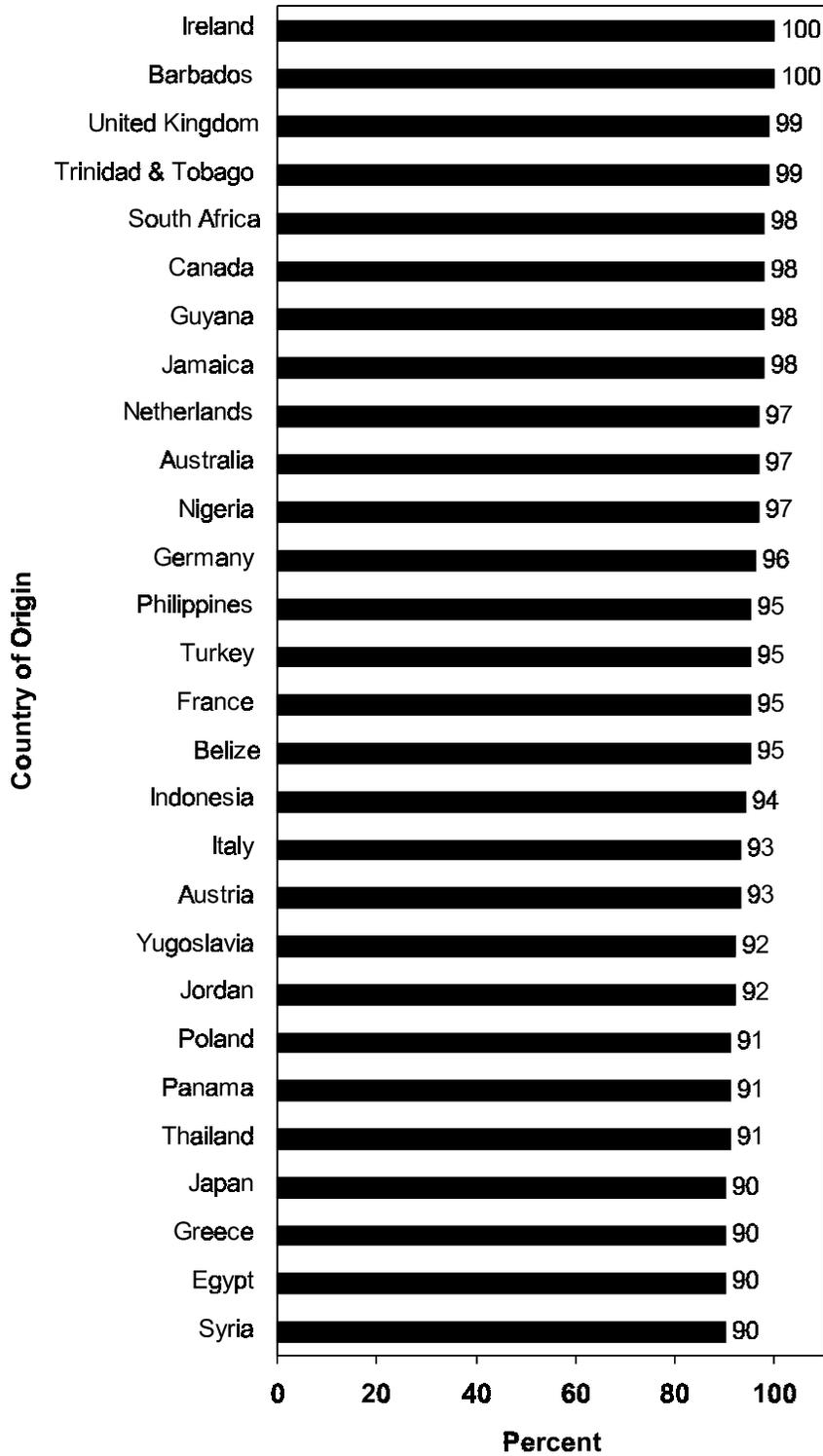


Note: See Technical Appendix for description of variables.

Source: Table B and Hernandez and Darke, 1999.

Figure 31 (Part 1)

Percent of Second Generation Children Speaking English "Exclusively" or "Very Well" by Country of Origin: 1990

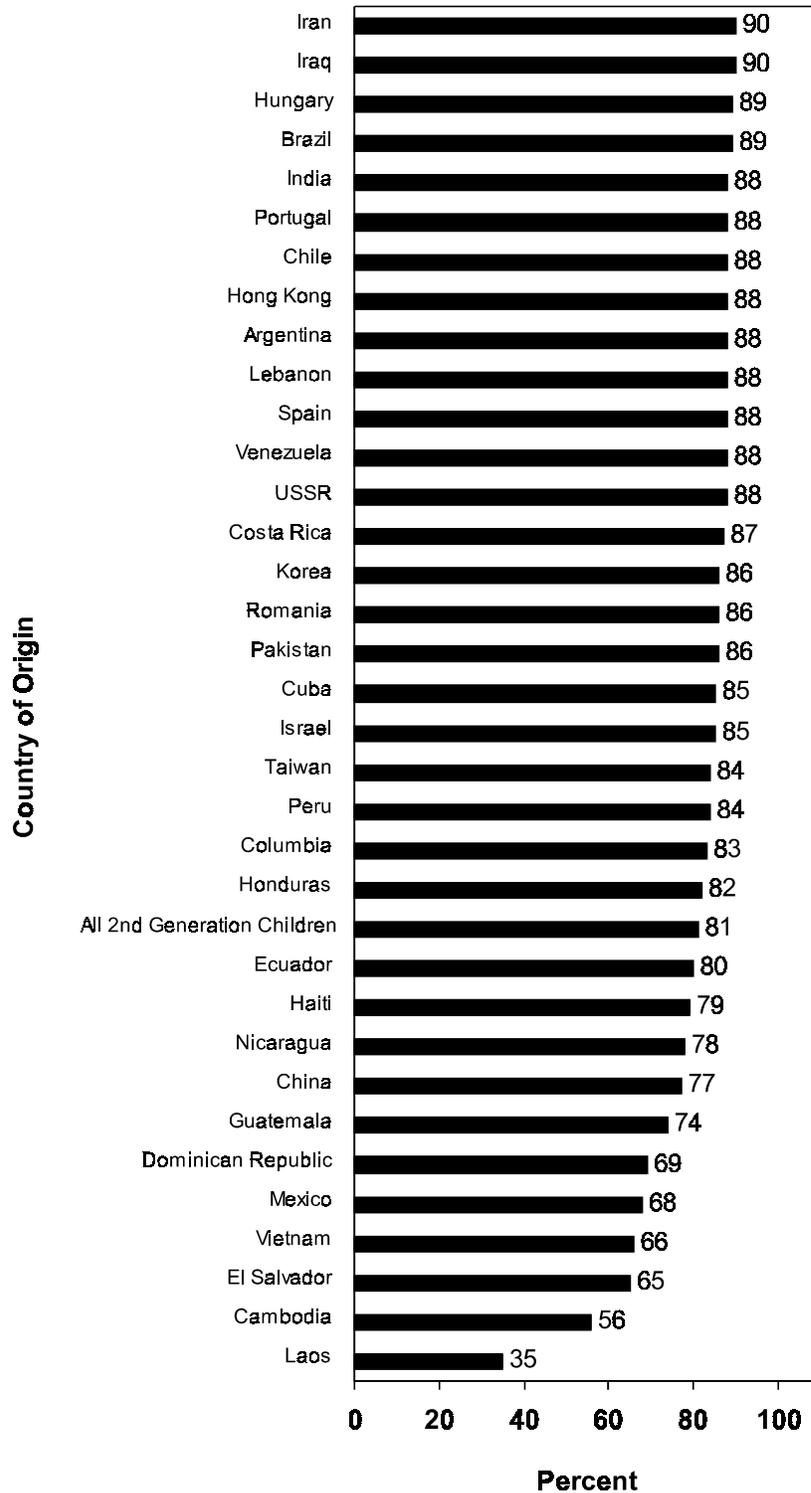


Note: See Technical Appendix for description of variables.

Source: Table B and Hernandez and Darke, 1999.

Figure 31 (Part 1)

Percent of Second Generation Children Speaking English "Exclusively" or "Very Well" by Country of Origin: 1990



Note: See Technical Appendix for description of variables.

Source: Table B and Hernandez and Darke, 1999.

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Lack of English fluency may not pose enormous difficulties for immigrants in communities that have a large number of residents from the home country. But it does isolate immigrants from the broader, mainstream society. The Census Bureau defines a linguistically isolated household as one in which no person age 14 years or over speaks English either exclusively or very well. Among children in immigrant families in 1990, 26 percent lived in linguistically isolated households (Figure 32). But among children from each of the 12 countries of origin with children at high levels of socioeconomic risk, the proportions in linguistically isolated households were 31-38 percent for 3 countries, 41-46 percent for 7 countries, and 60 percent for 2 (Laos and Cambodia). Children from only four additional countries had 30 percent or more in linguistically isolated households, at 41, 35, 36, and 31 percent, respectively, for China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Colombia.

No language information was collected in the 1960 census, but historical changes since the beginning of the century can be assessed by comparing “mother tongue” data for 1910 to “language spoken at home” in 1990. In 1910, the proportions of children in immigrant families for whom English was not the “mother tongue” for either the father or the mother were 84 to 85 percent, and for 79 percent of children in immigrant families with two parents in the home, neither parent had English as a mother tongue. In 1990, the proportions of children in immigrant families who lived with a mother or father who did not speak English at home were 76 to 78 percent. In households with both mother and father at home, the proportion was 70 percent. Although these measure of language are not identical, they are similar, and the similarity of the results for 1910 and 1990 suggests that historical differences in the proportion of children in immigrant families with parents speaking or not speaking English were about the same at the beginning and end of the century.