

## Research Update

# Survey of early career pediatricians shows many were 'immigrant children'



from the **AAP Department of Research**

A growing portion of pediatricians' patients are immigrant children, with nearly one-quarter of U.S. children either born or having a parent who was born outside the country.

Less is known about the backgrounds of pediatricians. What portion of pediatricians early in their careers were immigrant children themselves?

According to recent findings from the AAP Pediatrician Life and Career Experience Study (PLACES), pediatricians who graduated from residency less than 12 years ago (average age 38 years) have diverse, international backgrounds (see table and figure).

- More than one in five of the PLACES pediatricians were born outside the United States, and 40% have at least one parent born outside the United States.
- Approximately one-third of Hispanic and 30% of black pediatricians were born outside the United States.
- Nearly all (96%) of the Asian and almost three-fourths of the Hispanic pediatricians would have been considered "immigrant children" — they either were born or had a parent born outside the United States.

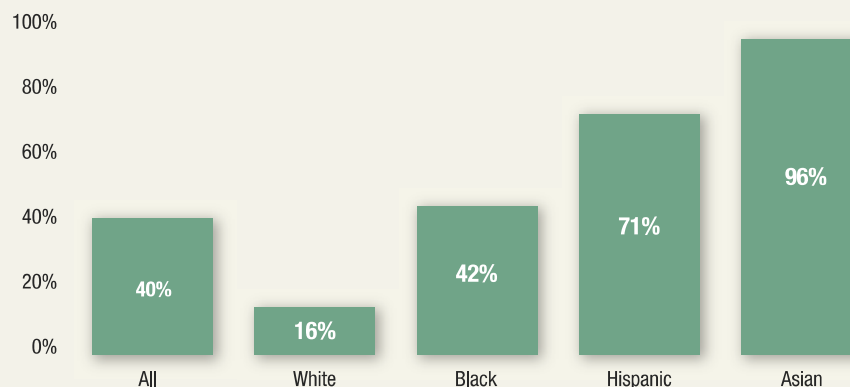
Similar proportions of pediatricians who were and were not immigrant children are generalists (40% vs. 42%) and subspecialists (25% vs. 24%). Slightly more pediatricians with immigrant backgrounds are in fellowship training (19% vs. 15%) and fewer are hospitalists (8% vs. 11%).

### Immigrant status of younger pediatricians and their parents (n=1,672)

Race/ethnicity	Pediatrician born outside of U.S., %	Parent(s) born outside the U.S., %
All	22	40
White, non-Hispanic	9	16
Black	30	42
Hispanic	35	69
Asian	52	96
Other	50	78

Source: AAP PLACES Annual Survey, spring 2013 (data weighted for non-response bias); pediatricians are less than 12 years post-residency

### Percent of younger pediatricians reporting by race/ethnicity that parent or self was born outside the U.S. (n=1,672)



Source: AAP PLACES Annual Survey, spring 2013 (data weighted for non-response bias); pediatricians are less than 12 years post-residency

Among pediatricians who are not in training, immigrant pediatricians are slightly more likely than non-immigrants to work in an urban, inner city (31% vs. 23%), less likely to work in a rural area (6% vs. 12%) and similarly likely to work in urban, non-inner city (28% vs. 28%) or suburban (36% vs. 37%) areas.

Immigrant pediatricians are more likely than those with a non-immigrant background to be proficient in a language other than

English (62% vs. 25%) and to care for a higher percentage of patients who have limited English proficiency (mean: 28% vs. 17%) and who have public insurance (mean: 52% vs. 45%).

Results from this study were reported at the 2014 Pediatric Academic Societies Annual Meeting. Data are from the PLACES Annual Survey, conducted in spring 2013. PLACES includes both AAP members and non-members in two cohorts — 903 “recent residency graduates” who are approximately two to four years post-residency

(average age 34 years) and 901 “early career” pediatricians who are approximately nine to 11 years post-residency (average age 41 years). Ninety-three percent of participants responded to the 2013 survey.

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For more information on PLACES, visit [www2.aap.org/research/places.htm](http://www2.aap.org/research/places.htm) or contact MaryPat Frintner, in the AAP Division of Health Services Research, at 800-433-9016, ext. 7664, or [mfrintner@aap.org](mailto:mfrintner@aap.org).