

ENGLISH FLUENCY

More than 44% of Broward County's population speaks a language other than English. Twenty-seven percent (27%) of the County's population is bilingual, fluent in English and another language. Spanish is the most widely spoken foreign language (29%), followed by Haitian Creole (6%). "Linguistically isolated" households account for 10% of the total and are scattered throughout Broward. Lack of fluency in English can pose communication problems, particularly during emergencies.

ENGLISH SPEAKING POPULATION

A greater number of Broward County residents are speaking languages other than English. Between 2013 and 2023, the share of population that speaks other languages increased from 38% to 44%. At the same time, the number of people that speak only English in the County has slightly declined.

POPULATION TOTALS* BY LANGUAGE DIVERSITY- 2013 & 2023¹

Fluency	2013 Estimate*	%	2023 Estimate*	%
Speak only English	1,076,599	62.2	1,035,026	55.7
Speak a Language other than English	654,268	37.8	822,232	44.3

*Population ages 5 years and over.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Years 2013 & 2023; Table S1601

ENGLISH FLUENCY

Overall, English fluency is stable in Broward. Between 2013 and 2023, the share of residents that speak English well dropped slightly from 85% to 82%. Over a third (39%) of new residents are not fluent in English. Even though an increasing number of residents speak other languages, English may be their second language.

POPULATION TOTALS* BY ENGLISH FLUENCY - 2013 & 2023

Fluency	2013 Estimate*	%	2023 Estimate*	%
Fluent	1,473,392	85.1	1,530,543	82.4
Not Fluent	257,475	14.9	326,715	17.6

*Population ages 5 years and over.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Years 2013 & 2023; Table B16001

BILINGUAL POPULATION

Bilinguals are fluent in at least two languages. Bilinguals in Broward have increased between 2013 and 2023, from 23% to 27%. At the same time, lack of fluency in English has also increased, from 15% to 18%. Not speaking English well poses challenges in communication and the provision of services, particularly during emergencies. Local governments often translate forms and websites into Spanish and Haitian Creole, among others, and have staff that can communicate in other languages.

LANGUAGE DATA

"Primary language" has multiple definitions and often refers to their most dominant or preferred language at any moment in time. Today, when many people are bilingual (fluent in two languages), the language spoken at home may not be the primary language. The survey excludes people who know other languages and do not speak them at home or use them infrequently.

DEFINITIONS

FLUENCY

A person's ability to speak a language, as reported on the ACS on a scale from 'very well' to 'not at all'. Respondents who select less than 'very well' have some difficulty with English and are not considered fluent.

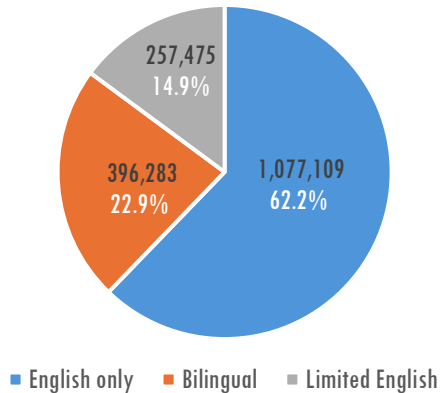
HOUSEHOLD LANGUAGE

Language assigned to a housing unit based upon a hierarchy of household members, beginning with the language spoken by the householder.

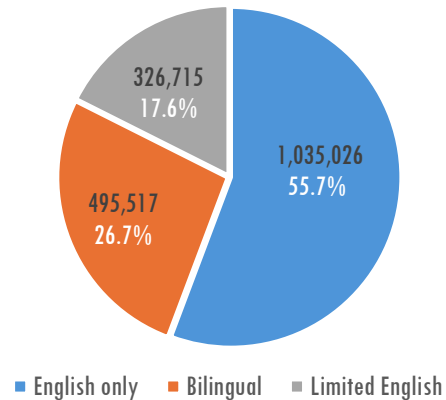
LINGUISTIC ISOLATION

Household where no one age 14 and over speaks English only or 'very well'.

**English Fluency in Broward 2013
(ages 5 and over)**



**English Fluency in Broward 2023
(ages 5 and over)**

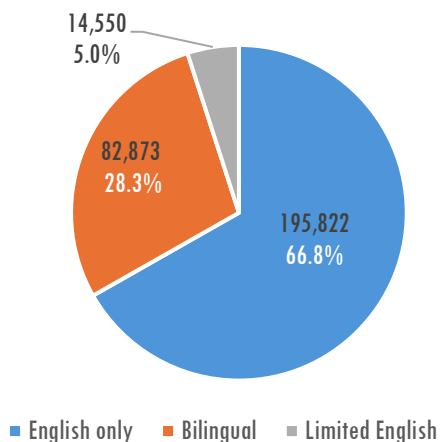


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Years 2013 & 2023; Table B16001

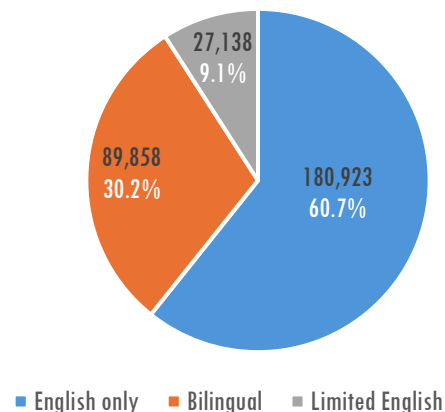
ENGLISH FLUENCY IN YOUNG POPULATION

English fluency and bilingualism are more common among Broward's young population. Since 2013, the total population between the ages of 5 and 17 has remained roughly the same, but an increased share is now bilingual. Only 9% of the young population is not fluent in English, compared to 18% for the County's overall population. English exposure through school, among other factors, plays a role towards higher English fluency. Children may speak the language of their parents at home but speak English in other environments. Almost one third of children 5 -17 years are bilingual (2023).

**Broward English Fluency in Youth 2013
(ages 5 - 17)**



**Broward English Fluency in Youth 2023
(ages 5 - 17)**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Years 2013 & 2023; Table B16004

FLUENCY AND CITIZENSHIP

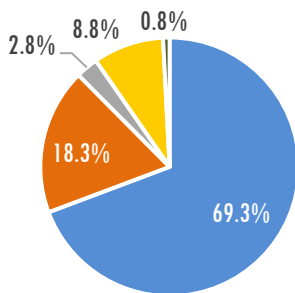
English fluency and bilingualism are higher for most naturalized citizens over non-citizen residents, for both children (ages 5-17) and adults (18+ years). As expected, English fluency in the native population is greatest (both age groups) and bilingualism is lowest (for both). Children are still more bilingual than adults, regardless of citizenship status.

Children who are born here (whether immigrant parents or not) speak only English and tend to lose fluency in the second language. Naturalized youth who are brought here with immigrant parents are the most bilingual of all groups. Children brought here who aren't citizens still demonstrate high rates of English fluency (68% - blue, orange and yellow) and bilingualism (53% - orange and yellow).

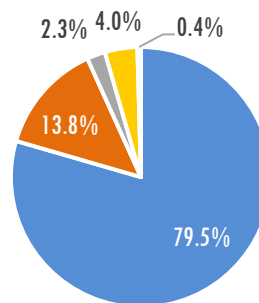
English Fluency by Age and Place of Birth



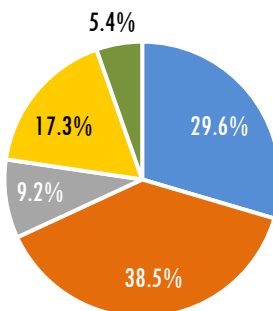
Native Population 5 - 17



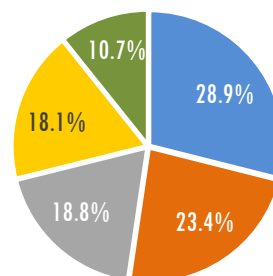
Native Population 18+



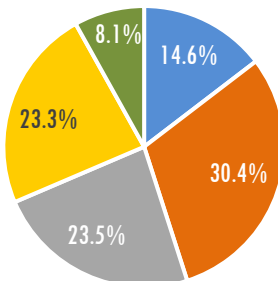
Naturalized Citizen 5 - 17



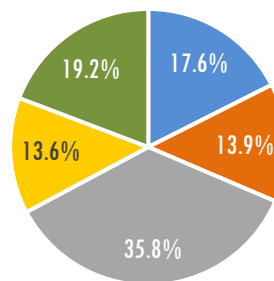
Naturalized Citizen 18+



Not a Citizen 5 - 17



Not a Citizen 18+



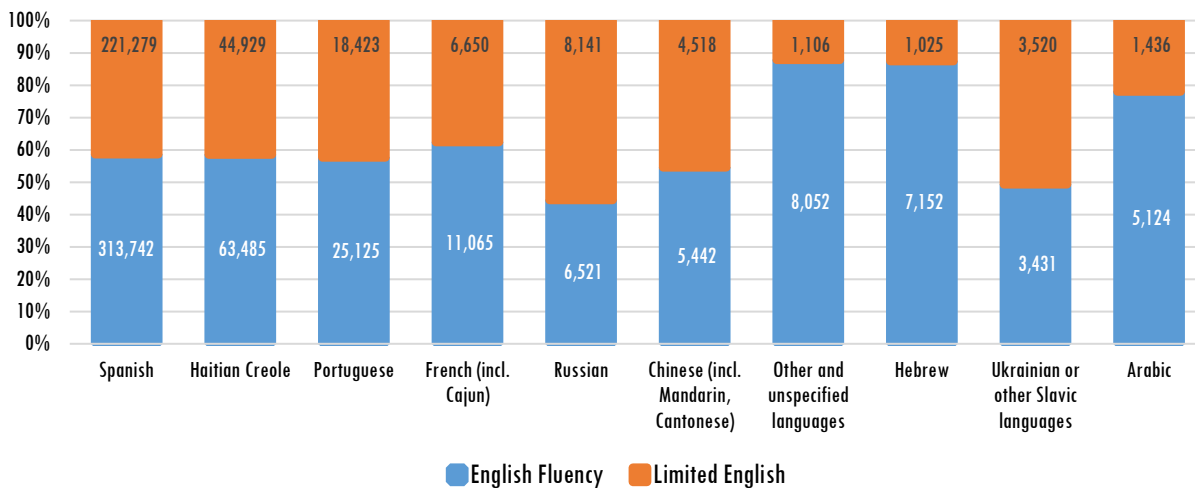
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Years 2018 - 2022; Table B16008

TOP LANGUAGES SPOKEN

The US Census Bureau collects data on 42 languages and language groups, of which many are spoken in Broward County. The top languages spoken are Spanish (29%), Haitian Creole¹ (6%), Portuguese (2%), and French (1%) (including Cajun and Canadian derivatives). Spanish spoken in Broward's large Hispanic/Latino population derives from various regions in South and Central America, which often differ in expression and meaning of common words.

For bilinguals, English fluency is consistently 55% or higher across nearly all the top 10 languages spoken in Broward. Of the 535,021 people who speak Spanish as their primary language, 41% are not fluent in English. English fluency is lowest for people whose primary language is Russian.

Broward County - Number of Speakers of Top 10 Languages by English Fluency - 2023



LANGUAGE DISTRIBUTION BY HOUSEHOLD

English fluency generally improves when viewed at the household level. While 59% of the Spanish speaking population is fluent in English, 78% live in households where some family members are fluent. Households where no one above the age of 14 is fluent in English are known as "linguistically isolated". Linguistically isolated (LI) households in Broward County account for 10% (75,845) of all households. LI households that speak Spanish make up 6.6% (50,222) of the total. French, Haitian, or Cajun LI households make up 1% of all households. Languages with lower rates of English fluency such as Chinese (including Mandarin and Cantonese) also demonstrate higher rates of linguistically isolated population. (See appendix).

CONCENTRATIONS OF NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS

While concentrations of non-English speaking households are present, LI households are found throughout the County. These households face additional barriers receiving goods and services. They are also placed at increased risk during the event of an emergency or disaster as they cannot understand emergency communications in English. Local foreign language radio stations are generally limited to Spanish and Haitian. While there are many foreign language radio

¹ French-based creole languages that are not Haitian Creole are grouped in "Other and unspecified languages".

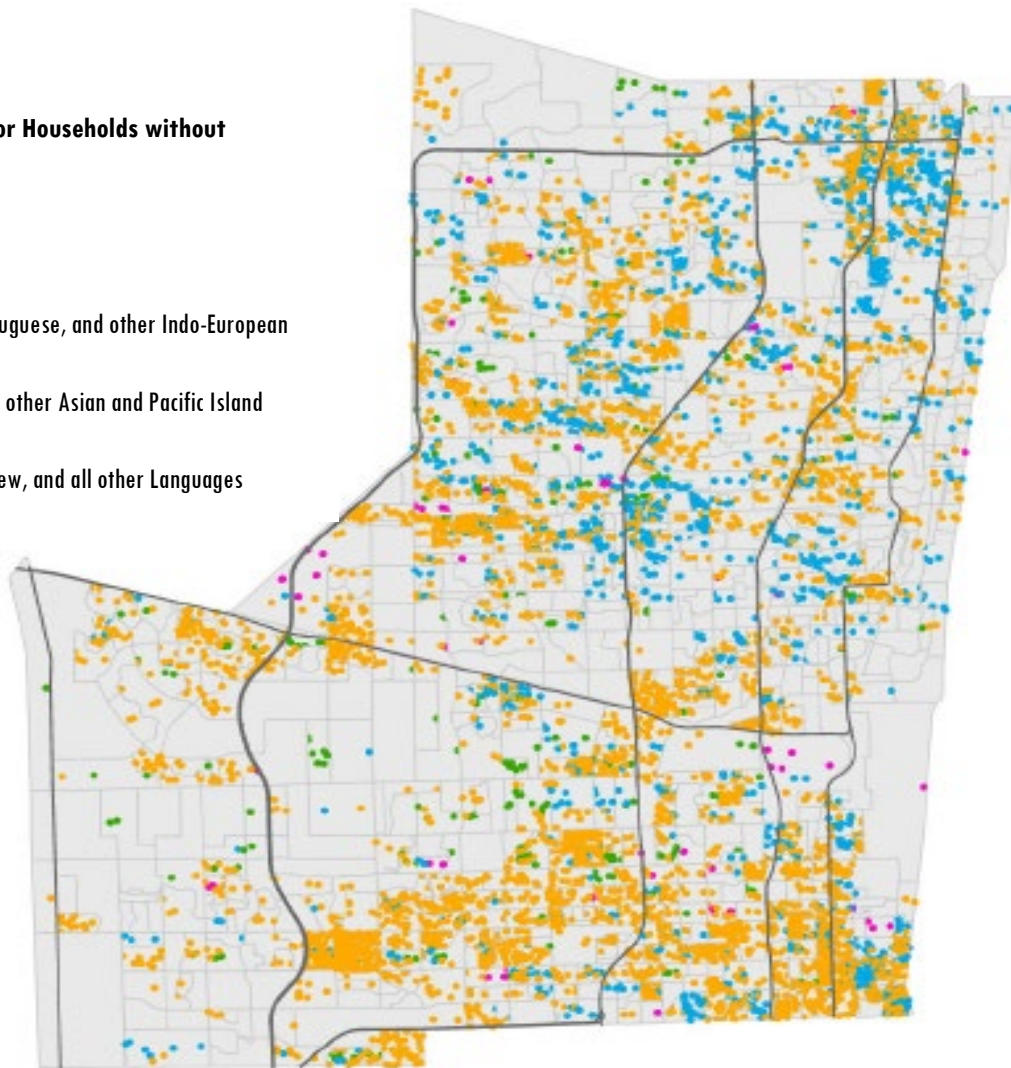
websites, local news may be more difficult to access. Places of worship and informal newspapers found at local ethnic restaurants are often the source of news for many LI household members.

ENCLAVES of LINGUISTICALLY ISOLATED HOUSEHOLDS¹

Primary Language for Households without English Fluency

1 Dot = 10 Households

- Spanish
- Haitian, Portuguese, and other Indo-European Languages
- Chinese, and other Asian and Pacific Island Languages
- Arabic, Hebrew, and all other Languages



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2018-2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates; Table C16002, Census Block Group Level

¹ Languages at the household level are simplified into 4 group classifications at the local level, shown colorized here and in the appendix tables. At the County level, languages at the household level are simplified into 12 groups plus English. (See “Language Distribution by Household in 2023” in the appendix for data at the County level).

TECHNICAL APPENDIX

LANGUAGES SPOKEN (AT HOME) IN 2023

Language Spoken	Group Classification	Population Estimate*	%	English Fluency	%**	Limited English	%**
English only		1,035,026	55.7				
Spanish	<i>Spanish</i>	535,021	28.8	313,742	58.6	221,279	41.4
Haitian	<i>Indo-European</i>	108,414	5.8	63,485	58.6	44,929	41.4
Portuguese	<i>Indo-European</i>	43,548	2.3	25,125	57.7	18,423	42.3
French (incl. Cajun)	<i>Indo-European</i>	17,715	1.0	11,065	62.5	6,650	37.5
Russian	<i>Indo-European</i>	14,662	0.8	6,521	44.5	8,141	55.5
Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese)	<i>Asian and Pacific Island</i>	9,960	0.5	5,442	54.6	4,518	45.4
Other and unspecified languages	<i>All Other Languages</i>	9,158	0.5	8,052	87.9	1,106	12.1
Hebrew	<i>All Other Languages</i>	8,177	0.4	7,152	87.5	1,025	12.5
Ukrainian or other Slavic languages	<i>Indo-European</i>	6,951	0.4	3,431	49.4	3,520	50.6
Arabic	<i>All Other Languages</i>	6,560	0.4	5,124	78.1	1,436	21.9
Malayalam, Kannada, or other Dravidian languages	<i>Indo-European</i>	5,826	0.3	4,895	84.0	931	16.0
Tagalog (incl. Filipino)	<i>Asian and Pacific Island</i>	5,566	0.3	4,546	81.7	1,020	18.3
German	<i>Indo-European</i>	5,416	0.3	5,213	96.3	203	3.7
Urdu	<i>Indo-European</i>	4,890	0.3	3,689	75.4	1,201	24.6
Other Indo-European languages	<i>Indo-European</i>	4,825	0.3	3,247	67.3	1,578	32.7
Italian	<i>Indo-European</i>	4,783	0.3	3,092	64.6	1,691	35.4
Vietnamese	<i>Asian and Pacific Island</i>	3,554	0.2	818	23.0	2,736	77.0
Gujarati	<i>Indo-European</i>	3,304	0.2	2,604	78.8	700	21.2
Polish	<i>Indo-European</i>	3,193	0.2	2,441	76.4	752	23.6
Hindi	<i>Indo-European</i>	3,106	0.2	3,106	100.0	0	0.0
Telugu	<i>Indo-European</i>	2,320	0.1	1,924	82.9	396	17.1
Bengali	<i>Indo-European</i>	1,631	0.1	515	31.6	1,116	68.4
Other languages of Asia	<i>Asian and Pacific Island</i>	1,574	0.1	1,301	82.7	273	17.3
Japanese	<i>Asian and Pacific Island</i>	1,552	0.1	1,141	73.5	411	26.5
Yiddish, Pennsylvania Dutch or other West Germanic languages	<i>Indo-European</i>	1,482	0.1	1,023	69.0	459	31.0
Greek	<i>Indo-European</i>	1,479	0.1	1,180	79.8	299	20.2
Korean	<i>Asian and Pacific Island</i>	1,364	0.1	418	30.6	946	69.4
Swahili or other languages of Central, Eastern, and Southern Africa	<i>All Other Languages</i>	1,111	0.1	1,111	100.0	0	0.0
Yoruba, Twi, Igbo, or other languages of Western Africa	<i>All Other Languages</i>	1,041	0.1	987	94.8	54	5.2
Ilocano, Samoan, Hawaiian, or other Austronesian languages	<i>Asian and Pacific Island</i>	1,015	0.1	897	88.4	118	11.6
Thai, Lao, or other Tai-Kadai languages	<i>Asian and Pacific Island</i>	839	0.0	207	24.7	632	75.3
Serbo-Croatian	<i>Indo-European</i>	666	0.0	666	100.0	0	0.0
Persian (incl. Farsi, Dari)	<i>Indo-European</i>	491	0.0	466	94.9	25	5.1
Nepali, Marathi, or other Indic languages	<i>Indo-European</i>	402	0.0	402	100.0	0	0.0
Tamil	<i>Indo-European</i>	290	0.0	290	100.0	0	0.0

Language Spoken	Group Classification	Population Estimate*	%	English Fluency	%**	Limited English	%**
Punjabi	<i>Indo-European</i>	159	0.0	159	100.0	0	0.0
Amharic, Somali, or other Afro-Asiatic languages	<i>All Other Languages</i>	135	0.0	0	0.0	135	100.0
Armenian	<i>Indo-European</i>	27	0.0	27	100.0	0	0.0
Other Native languages of North America	<i>All Other Languages</i>	25	0.0	13	52.0	12	48.0
Hmong	<i>Asian and Pacific Island</i>	0	0.0	0	N/A	0	N/A
Khmer	<i>Asian and Pacific Island</i>	0	0.0	0	N/A	0	N/A
Navajo	<i>All Other Languages</i>	0	0.0	0	N/A	0	N/A
Total:		1,857,258		495,517		326,715	

*Population ages 5 and over.

**Percentage of total population speaking that language.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Year 2023; Table B16001

LANGUAGE DISTRIBUTION BY HOUSEHOLD IN 2023

Household Language	Group Classification	Household Estimate	English Fluency	%*	Limited English	%*
English only		398,276				
Spanish	<i>Spanish</i>	231,824	181,602	78.3	50,222	21.7
French, Haitian, or Cajun	<i>Indo-European</i>	49,072	38,473	78.4	10,599	21.6
Other Indo-European languages	<i>Indo-European</i>	32,299	26,509	82.1	5,790	17.9
Russian, Polish, or other Slavic languages	<i>Indo-European</i>	13,177	8,613	65.4	4,564	34.6
Other and unspecified languages	<i>All Other Languages</i>	11,482	10,581	92.2	901	7.8
Other Asian and Pacific Island languages	<i>Asian and Pacific Island</i>	5,922	5,333	90.1	589	9.9
Tagalog (incl. Filipino)	<i>Asian and Pacific Island</i>	2,936	2,748	93.6	188	6.4
Arabic	<i>All Other Languages</i>	2,591	2,591	100.0	0	0.0
Vietnamese	<i>Asian and Pacific Island</i>	1,701	795	46.7	906	53.3
Korean	<i>Asian and Pacific Island</i>	688	505	73.4	183	26.6
Total:		758,853	284,732		75,845	

*Percentage of total households speaking that language.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Year 2023; Tables B16002