

ENGLISH FLUENCY

More than 40% of Broward County's population speaks a language other than English. Twenty-five percent (25%) of the County's population is bilingual, fluent in English and another language. Spanish is the most widely spoken foreign language (25%), 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 2006 and 2016, the share of population that speaks other languages increased from 35% to 41%. At the same time, the number of people that speak only English in the County has slightly declined.

POPULATION TOTALS* BY LANGUAGE DIVERSITY 2006 & 2016 ¹				
	2006 Estimate*	%	2016 Estimate*	%
Speak only English	1,085,194	65.0	1,064,726	59.2
Speak a Language other than English	584,686	35.0	733,559	40.8

*Population ages 5 years and over.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Years 2006, 2016; Table S1601, B16001

ENGLISH FLUENCY

Overall, English fluency is fairly stable in Broward. Between 2006 and 2016, the share of residents that speak English well dropped slightly from 86% to 84%. Over a third (38%) 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 2006 & 2016				
	2006 Estimate*	%	2016 Estimate*	%
Fluent	1,431,440	85.7	1,510,551	84.0
Not Fluent	238,440	14.3	287,734	16.0

*Population ages 5 years and over.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Years 2006, 2016; Table B16001

BILINGUAL POPULATION

Bilinguals are fluent in at least two languages. Bilinguals in Broward have increased between 2006 and 2016, from 21% to 25%. At the same time, lack of fluency in English has also increased, from 14% to 16%. 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

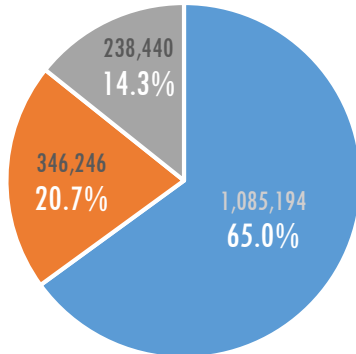
Language assigned to a housing unit based upon a hierarchy of household members, beginning with the language spoken by the householder.

LINGUISTIC ISOLATION

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

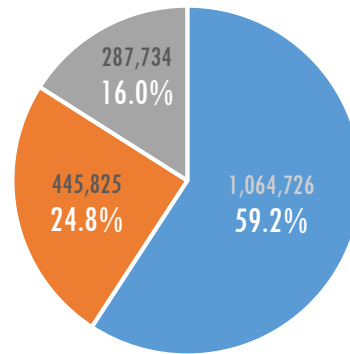
¹ ACS 1-Year Estimates are calculated at a 90% confidence level that includes a margin of error (see appendix).

English Fluency in Broward
(ages 5 and over) **2006**



■ English Only ■ Bilingual ■ Limited English

English Fluency in Broward
(ages 5 and over) **2016**



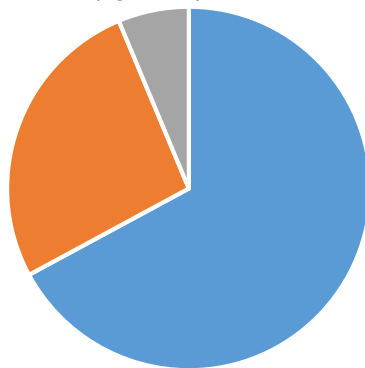
■ English Only ■ Bilingual ■ Limited English

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Years 2006, 2016; Table B16001

ENGLISH FLUENCY IN YOUNG POPULATION

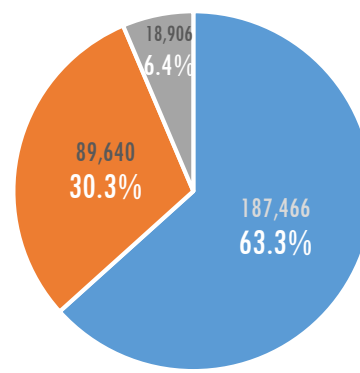
English fluency and bilingualism are more common among Broward's young population. Since 2006, the total population between the ages of 5 and 17 has remained roughly the same, but an increased share is now bilingual. Only 6% of the young population is not fluent in English, compared to 16% for the County's 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 prefer English in other environments. Almost one third of children 5 -17 years are bilingual (2016).

Broward English Fluency in Youth
(Ages 5-17) **2006**



■ English Only ■ Bilingual ■ Limited English

Broward English Fluency in Youth
(Ages 5-17) **2016**



■ English Only ■ Bilingual ■ Limited English

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Years 2006, 2016; Table B16004

FLUENCY AND CITIZENSHIP

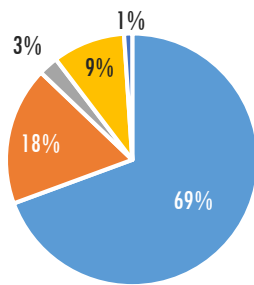
English fluency and bilingualism are higher for naturalized citizens over non-citizen residents, for both children (ages 5-17) and adults (18+ years). In both groups, English fluency and bilingualism is more frequent among young people. As expected, English fluency in the native population is greatest (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) prefer to 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 (70% - blue, orange and yellow) and bilingualism (52% - orange and yellow).

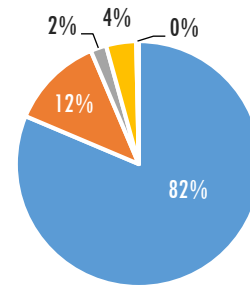
English Fluency by Age and Place of Birth

- Speak only English
- Spanish & English Fluent
- Spanish & Not English Fluent
- Other Language & English Fluent
- Other Language & Not English Fluent

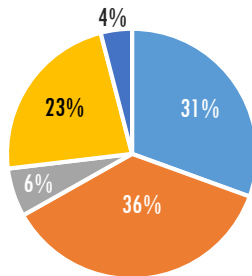
Native Population 5-17



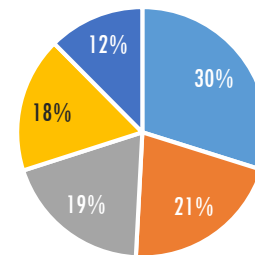
Native Population 18+



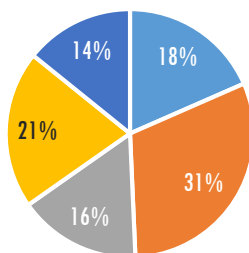
Naturalized Citizen 5-17



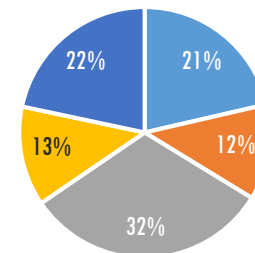
Naturalized Citizen 18+



Not a Citizen 5-17



Not a Citizen 18+



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Years 2012 - 2016; Table B16008

According to the Public Policy Institute (PPI) of California, English language skills increase with years of residency in the United States. On the other hand, bilingualism in children is lost through generations. The third generation of immigrants tend to speak mostly English and generally speak very little of their grandparent's language. English fluency is also tied

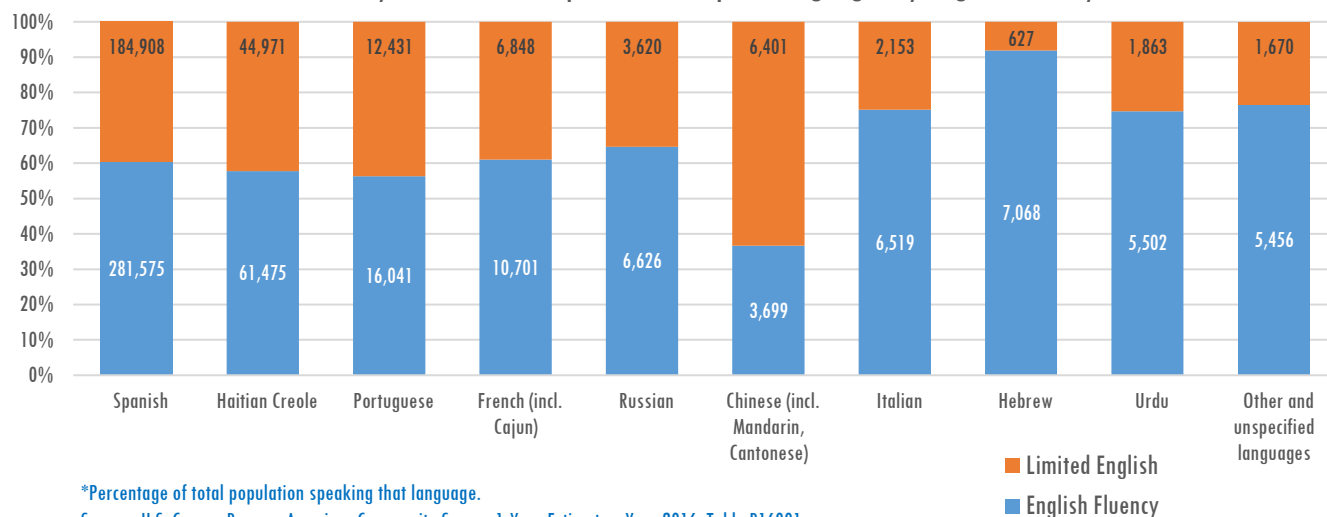
to educational attainment and 71% of US immigrants with college degrees are fluent in English. Among immigrants without high school degrees, 67% are not fluent in English.

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 (26%), Haitian Creole² (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 60% or higher across of the most top 10 languages spoken in Broward. Of the 466,483 people who speak Spanish as their primary language, 40% are not fluent in English. English fluency is lowest for people whose primary language is Chinese.

Broward County -- Number of Speakers of Top 10 Languages by English Fluency - 2016



*Percentage of total population speaking that language.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Year 2016; Table B16001 ACS data on all languages for year 2016 can be viewed in the appendix.

LANGUAGE DISTRIBUTION BY HOUSEHOLD

English fluency generally improves when viewed at the household level. While 60% of the Spanish speaking population is fluent in English, 76% 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% (69,426) of all households. LI households that speak Spanish make up 6.3% (43,062) of the total. French, Haitian, or Cajun LI households make up 2% of all households. Languages with the lowest rates of English fluency such as Chinese (including Mandarin and Cantonese) also demonstrate higher rates of linguistic isolation. (See appendix).

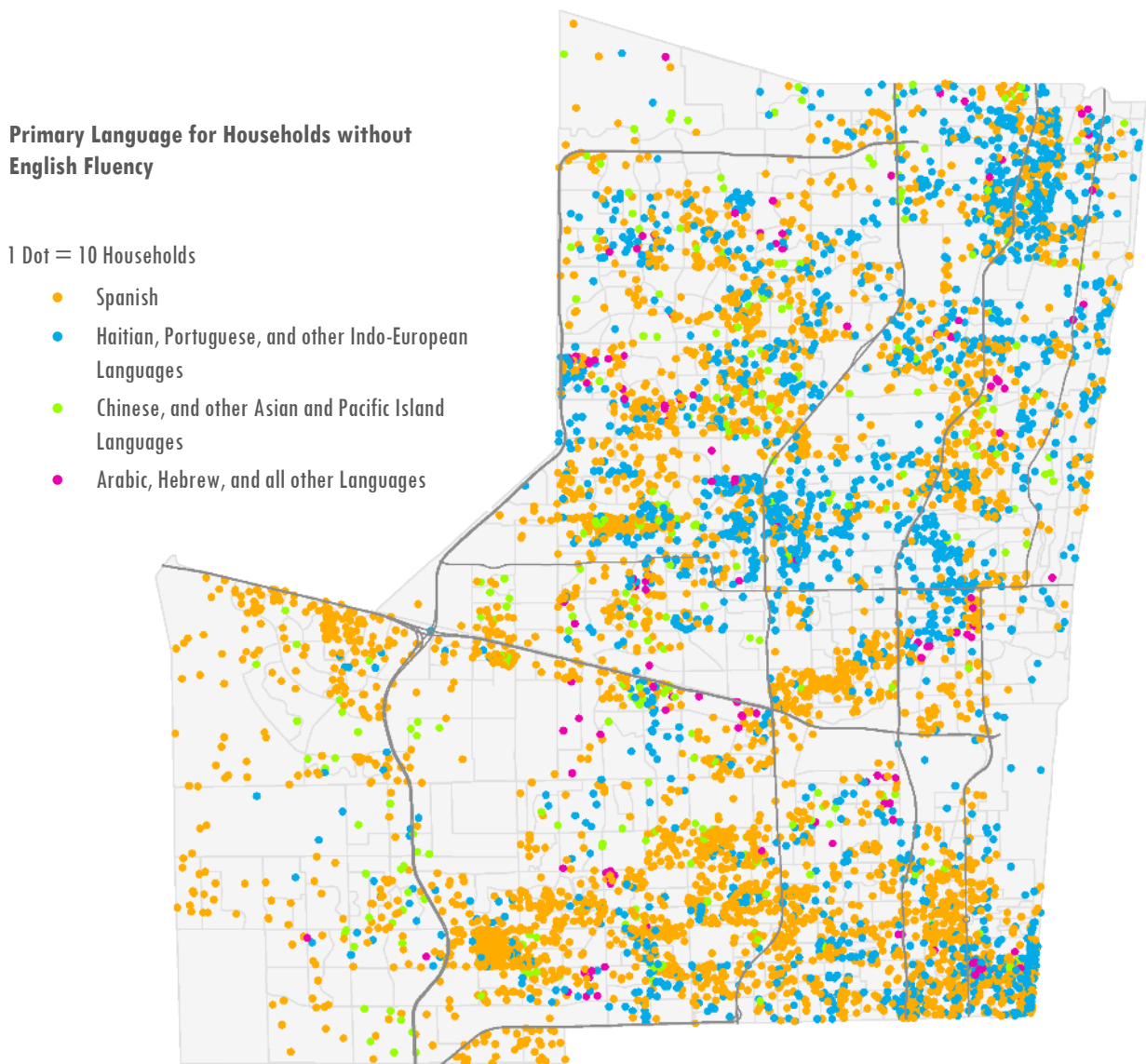
CONCENTRATIONS OF NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS

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

² French-based creole languages that are not Haitian are grouped in “Other and unspecified languages”.

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 websites, local news may be more difficult to access. Word of mouth is often the source of news for many LI household members, as well as places of worship and informal newspapers found at local ethnic restaurants.

ENCLAVES of LINGUISTICALLY ISOLATED HOUSEHOLDS³



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates; Table C16002, Census Block Group Level

³ 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 2016” in the appendix for data at the County level).

TECHNICAL APPENDIX

Languages Spoken (at Home) in 2016								
Language Spoken	Group Classification	Population Estimate*	Margin of Error ⁴	%	English Fluency	%**	Limited English	%**
Total:		1,798,285						
English only		1,064,726	+/-18,007	59.2				
Spanish	<i>Spanish</i>	466,483	+/-8,577	25.9	281,575	60.4	184,908	39.6
Haitian	<i>Indo-European</i>	106,446	+/-11,273	5.9	61,475	57.8	44,971	42.2
Portuguese	<i>Indo-European</i>	28,472	+/-4,561	1.6	16,041	56.3	12,431	43.7
French (incl. Cajun)	<i>Indo-European</i>	17,549	+/-2,887	1.0	10,701	61.0	6,848	39.0
Russian	<i>Indo-European</i>	10,246	+/-2,469	0.6	6,626	64.7	3,620	35.3
Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese)	<i>Asian and Pacific Island</i>	10,100	+/-3,018	0.6	3,699	36.6	6,401	63.4
Italian	<i>Indo-European</i>	8,672	+/-2,783	0.5	6,519	75.2	2,153	24.8
Hebrew	<i>All Other Languages</i>	7,695	+/-2,074	0.4	7,068	91.9	627	8.1
Urdu	<i>Indo-European</i>	7,365	+/-2,886	0.4	5,502	74.7	1,863	25.3
Other and unspecified languages	<i>All Other Languages</i>	7,126	+/-2,627	0.4	5,456	76.6	1,670	23.4
Arabic	<i>All Other Languages</i>	6,351	+/-2,611	0.4	2,577	40.6	3,774	59.4
Other Indo-European languages	<i>Indo-European</i>	6,068	+/-2,534	0.3	3,824	63.0	2,244	37.0
Tagalog (incl. Filipino)	<i>Asian and Pacific Island</i>	5,043	+/-1,663	0.3	4,104	81.4	939	18.6
Vietnamese	<i>Asian and Pacific Island</i>	4,480	+/-1,519	0.2	1,537	34.3	2,943	65.7
German	<i>Indo-European</i>	4,167	+/-968	0.2	3,235	77.6	932	22.4
Hindi	<i>Indo-European</i>	3,813	+/-1,847	0.2	2,890	75.8	923	24.2
Yiddish, Pennsylvania Dutch or other West Germanic languages	<i>Indo-European</i>	3,802	+/-2,085	0.2	3,170	83.4	632	16.6
Polish	<i>Indo-European</i>	3,296	+/-2,345	0.2	1,884	57.2	1,412	42.8
Ukrainian or other Slavic languages	<i>Indo-European</i>	2,547	+/-1,165	0.1	1,783	70.0	764	30.0
Gujarati	<i>Indo-European</i>	2,247	+/-1,486	0.1	1,929	85.8	318	14.2
Tamil	<i>Indo-European</i>	2,204	+/-1,280	0.1	1,344	61.0	860	39.0
Persian (incl. Farsi, Dari)	<i>Indo-European</i>	2,124	+/-1,238	0.1	1,399	65.9	725	34.1
Greek	<i>Indo-European</i>	1,794	+/-1,005	0.1	1,339	74.6	455	25.4
Serbo-Croatian	<i>Indo-European</i>	1,727	+/-764	0.1	1,092	63.2	635	36.8
Bengali	<i>Indo-European</i>	1,617	+/-1,357	0.1	1,252	77.4	365	22.6
Nepali, Marathi, or other Indic languages	<i>Indo-European</i>	1,606	+/-1,043	0.1	1,077	67.1	529	32.9
Malayalam, Kannada, or other Dravidian languages	<i>Indo-European</i>	1,527	+/-929	0.1	981	64.2	546	35.8
Other languages of Asia	<i>Asian and Pacific Island</i>	1,331	+/-890	0.1	863	64.8	468	35.2
Yoruba, Twi, Igbo, or other languages of Western Africa	<i>All Other Languages</i>	1,030	+/-611	0.1	908	88.2	122	11.8

⁴ To view fluency margins of error for all languages, view the full table at <https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>

Thai, Lao, or other Tai-Kadai languages	<i>Asian and Pacific Island</i>	984	+/-530	0.1	589	59.9	395	40.1
Telugu	<i>Indo-European</i>	923	+/-640	0.1	795	86.1	128	13.9
Korean	<i>Asian and Pacific Island</i>	915	+/-766	0.1	356	38.9	559	61.1
Japanese	<i>Asian and Pacific Island</i>	800	+/-498	0.0	404	50.5	396	49.5
Other Native languages of North America	<i>All Other Languages</i>	696	+/-479	0.0	444	63.8	252	36.2
Swahili or other languages of Central, Eastern, and Southern Africa	<i>All Other Languages</i>	682	+/-713	0.0	170	24.9	512	75.1
Punjabi	<i>Indo-European</i>	608	+/-848	0.0	322	53.0	286	47.0
Armenian	<i>Indo-European</i>	483	+/-380	0.0	425	88.0	58	12.0
Ilocano, Samoan, Hawaiian, or other Austronesian languages	<i>Asian and Pacific Island</i>	399	+/-279	0.0	329	82.5	70	17.5
Amharic, Somali, or other Afro-Asiatic languages	<i>All Other Languages</i>	141	+/-170	0.0	141	100.0	0	0.0
Hmong	<i>Asian and Pacific Island</i>	0	+/-221	0.0	0	N/A	0	N/A
Khmer	<i>Asian and Pacific Island</i>	0	+/-221	0.0	0	N/A	0	N/A
Navajo	<i>All Other Languages</i>	0	+/-221	0.0	0	N/A	0	N/A
Total:					445,825		287,734	

*Population ages 5 and over.

**Percentage of total population speaking that language.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Year 2016; Table B16001

Language Distribution by Household in 2016

Household Language	Group Classification	Household Estimate	English Fluency	%*	Limited English	%*
Total:		681,474				
English only		385,574				
Spanish	<i>Spanish</i>	182,837	139,775	76.4	43,062	23.6
French, Haitian, or Cajun	<i>Indo-European</i>	47,679	35,312	74.1	12,367	25.9
Other Indo-European	<i>Indo-European</i>	27,381	21,288	77.7	6,093	22.3
Russian, Polish, or other Slavic	<i>Indo-European</i>	8,853	6,791	76.7	2,062	23.3
Other and unspecified languages	<i>All Other Languages</i>	8,372	7,387	88.2	985	11.8
German or other West Germanic	<i>Indo-European</i>	5,832	5,072	87.0	760	13.0
Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese)	<i>Asian and Pacific Island</i>	4,525	2,706	59.8	1,819	40.2
Other Asian and Pacific Island	<i>Asian and Pacific Island</i>	4,345	3,754	86.4	591	13.6
Arabic	<i>All Other Languages</i>	2,429	1,518	62.5	911	37.5
Tagalog (incl. Filipino)	<i>Asian and Pacific Island</i>	1,614	1,562	96.8	52	3.2
Vietnamese	<i>Asian and Pacific Island</i>	1,547	877	56.7	670	43.3
Korean	<i>Asian and Pacific Island</i>	486	432	88.9	54	11.1
Total:			226,474		69,426	

*Percentage of total households speaking that language.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates, Year 2016; Tables B16002, S1602