

A Binational Perspective of Puerto Rican-Origin Children's Living Arrangements: A Decade of Change and Migration in Puerto Rico and the United States, 2006 and 2015

Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America
 Denver, CO
 April 27, 2018

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Big Changes for Puerto Ricans

- Puerto Rico's (P.R.) population decreased 2.2% between 2000 and 2010 and 6.8% between 2010 and 2015 (Manuel Krogstad 2016).
- This change is due to the economic recession in P.R., declining fertility and high emigration.
- Since 2008 Puerto Ricans in the United States (U.S.) outnumber those in P.R. (Collazo, Ryan and Bauman 2010).
- Extensive family literature underscores the importance of living arrangements as indicators of potential resources for children.

Objective: Describe and analyze the living arrangements of Puerto Rican-origin children in P.R. and the U.S. across time, and the role of migration
Data: 2006 & 2015 American Community Survey (ACS) & Puerto Rico Community Survey (PRCS) 1-year estimates, all data are shown in percentages of children unless otherwise noted
Universe: Children who are **less than 18 years** of age and of **Puerto Rican-origin** as reported in the detailed Hispanic origin question (of any race) who lived in P.R. or in the U.S. in 2006 or 2015
Living arrangements: based on responses to questions on relationship to the householder, presence of grandparents and whether they are responsible for grandchildren, and family recodes
Migration: based on responses to place of birth and residence one year ago

Population Size and Change

- Between 2006 and 2015 the Puerto Rican child population in P.R. dropped from 994 to 723 thousand children, a **decrease of 27.2%**.
- In the U.S., the Puerto Rican child population increased from 1.3 to 1.7 million, an **increase of 27.7%**.
- Fertility and migration patterns contributed to the change.

Figure 1. Number of Puerto Rican children by place of residence in 2006 and 2015

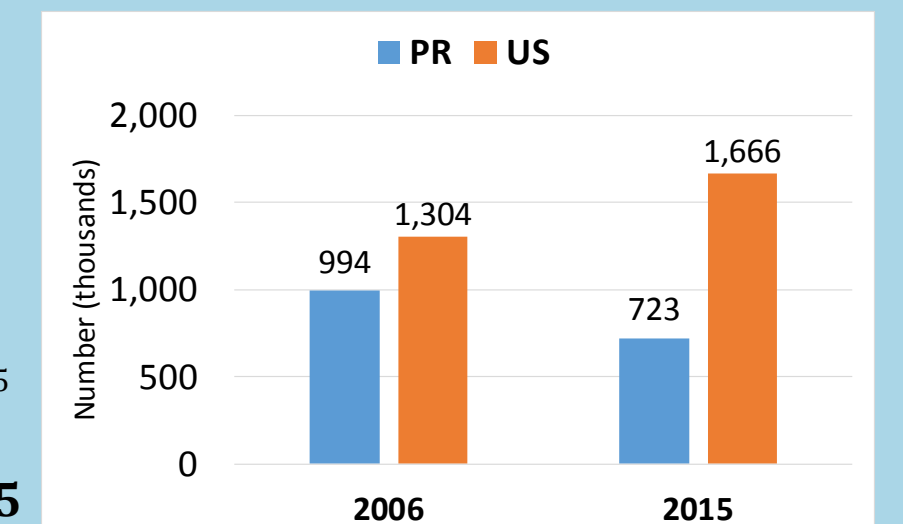
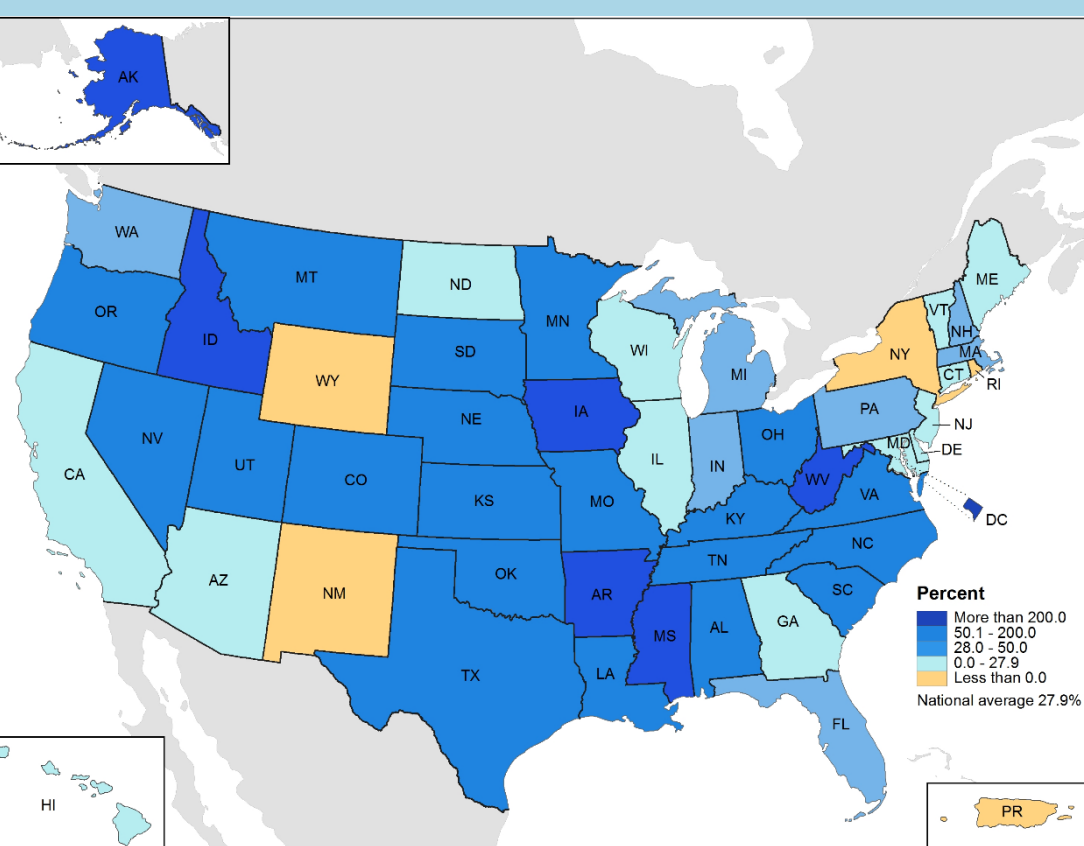


Figure 2. Percent change between 2006 and 2015 in the number of Puerto Rican children by state



- Most states had an increase in Puerto Rican children between 2006 and 2015.
- 9 of the top 10 states with the largest Puerto Rican child population had a positive percent change: FL, PA, NJ, MA, CT, TX, CA, IL and OH.
- NY was the only top 10 state to decline.
- Among declining states, only WY was not statistically different from the U.S. average.
- 18 states did not differ statistically across years, but were also not different or were lower than the U.S. average.

Source: ACS 1-yr estimates 2006 & 2015 and PRCS 1-yr estimates 2006 & 2015. **Notes:** All comparative statements are statistically significant at the 0.1 level. Percent change = (Number in 2015 - Number in 2006) / Number in 2006 * 100.

Puerto Rican-origin Children's Living Arrangements and Families

Figure 3. Children's living arrangements by place of residence: 2006 and 2015

Figure 3 shows children's living arrangements by considering the presence and number of parents present in P.R. and the U.S. in 2006 and 2015.

- The majority of children lived with 2 married parents or with their mother only in both places.
- A higher proportion of children in 2015 in P.R. live with their mother only or with cohabiting parents compared to children in the U.S.
- By 2015 living with a mother only became as common as living with 2 married parents for children in P.R.
- In the U.S., only 2 groups changed between 2006 and 2015 - those with cohabiting parents and those living with none.

Source: ACS 1-yr estimates 2006 & 2015 and PRCS 1-yr estimates 2006 & 2015
Notes: All comparative statements are statistically significant at the 0.1 level. * Difference is statistically significant between 2006 and 2015 at the 0.1 level. • Difference is statistically significant between P.R. 2015 and the U.S. 2015 at the 0.1 level.

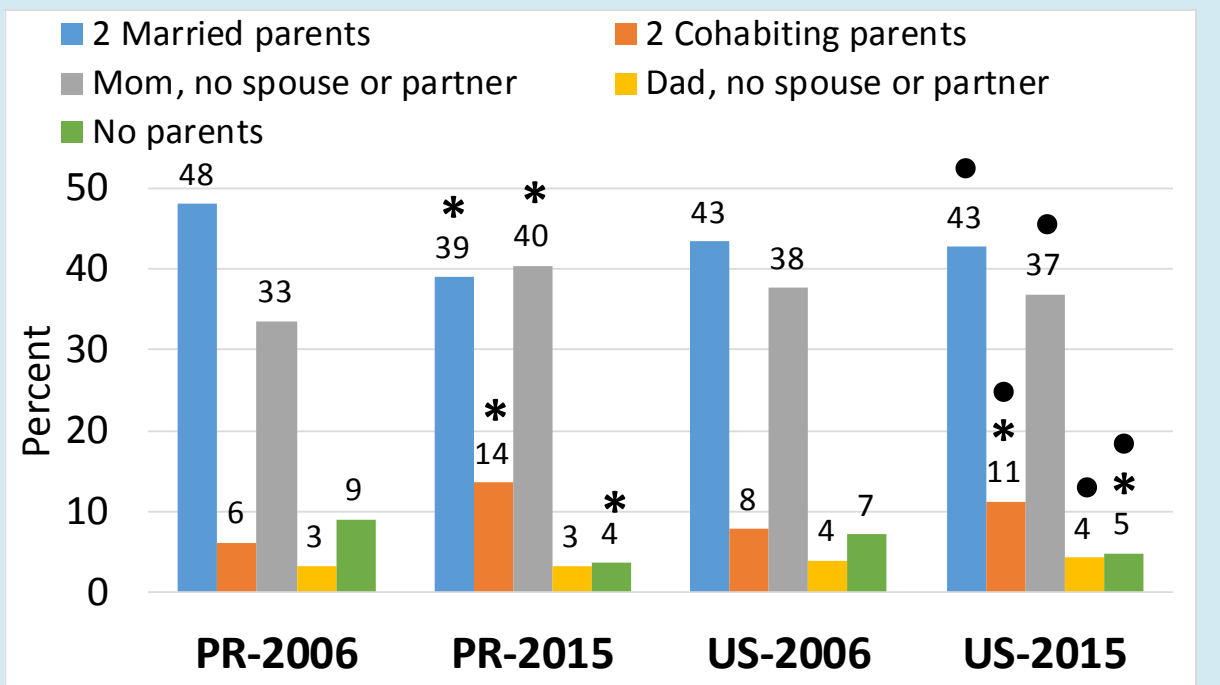
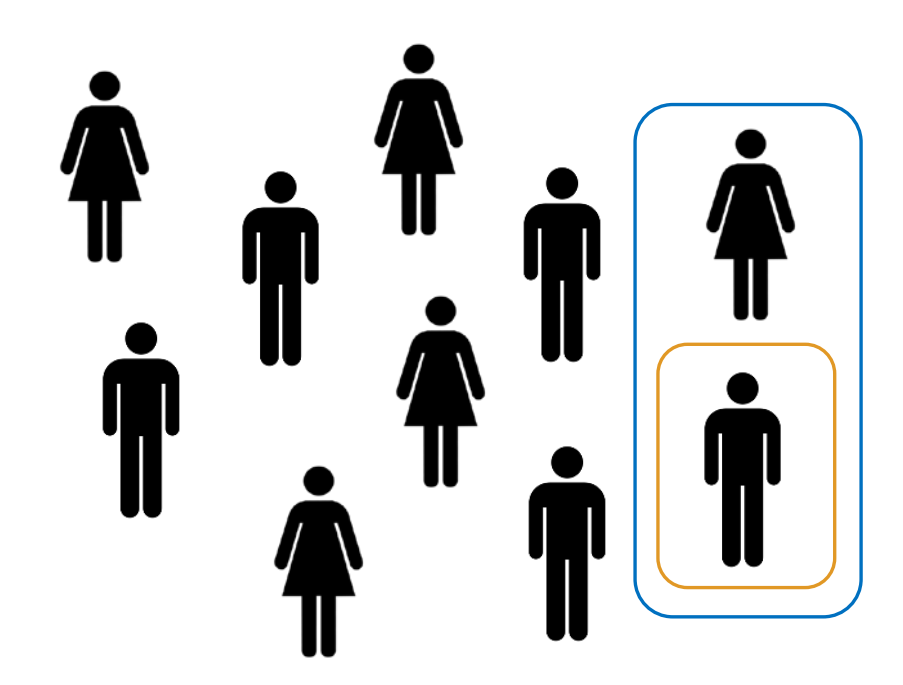


Figure 4a. Children and grandparents: 2015

In Figure 4a each person represents a tenth of children in P.R. or the U.S. The colored boxes show the number of kids living with a grandparent or with a grandparent who is responsible for a grandchild in 2015.



- Almost 2 out of 10 kids lived in a house with a grandparent in P.R. and the U.S.
- Less than 10% of kids lived in a house with a grandparent who is responsible for a grandchild in P.R. and the U.S.
- The percent of children in the U.S. with a grandparent present increased from 14% in 2006 to 16% in 2015.

Source: ACS 1-yr estimates 2006 & 2015 and PRCS 1-yr estimates 2006 & 2015
Notes: All comparative statements are statistically significant at the 0.1 level. * Difference is statistically significant between 2006 and 2015 at the 0.1 level. • Difference is statistically significant between P.R. 2015 and the U.S. 2015 at the 0.1 level.

Figure 4b. Children with NO PARENTS PRESENT and grandparents: 2006 and 2015

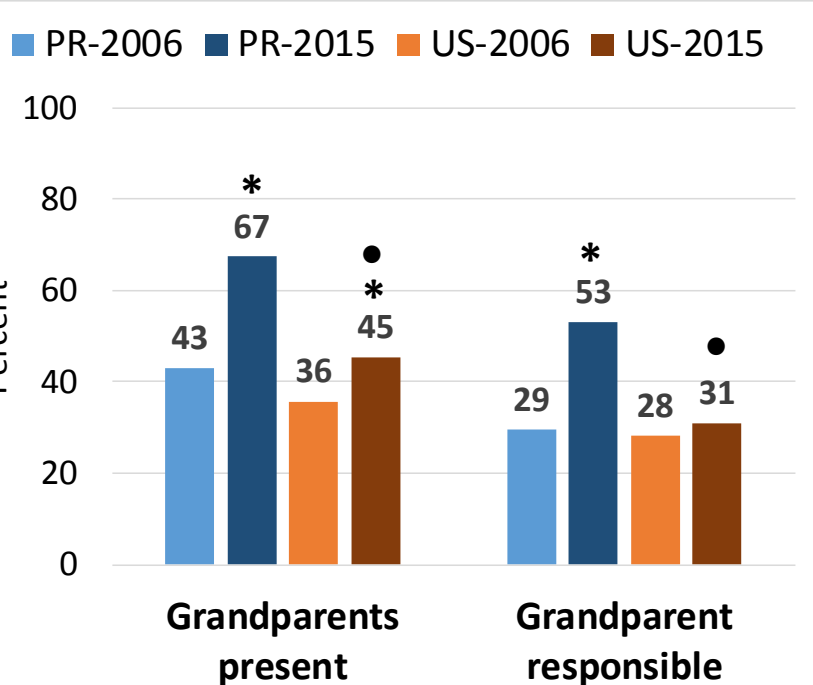
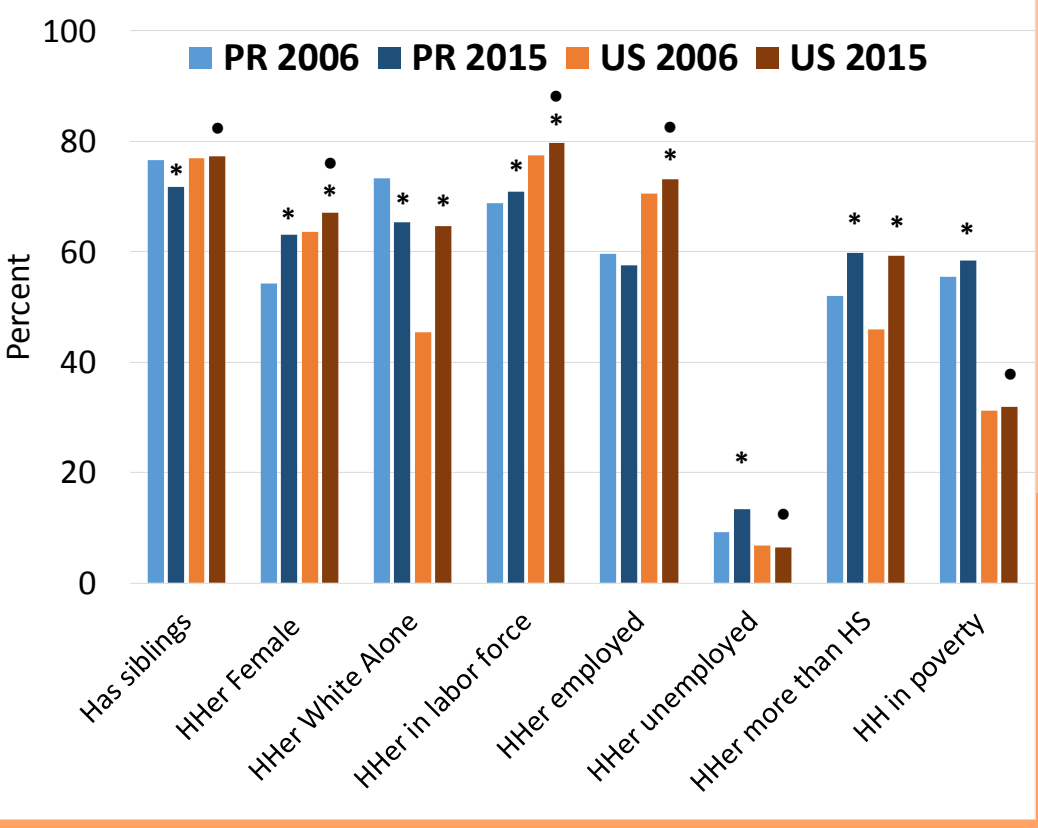


Figure 4b depicts the percent of children who lived with a grandparent or with a grandparent who is responsible for a grandchild in 2006 and 2015 in P.R. and the U.S., among kids who do not live with parents.

- A higher proportion of children with no parents present lived with grandparents in 2015 than in 2006, in both P.R. and the U.S.
- 2 out of 3 children with no parents present lived with grandparents in P.R. in 2015 which is higher than in the U.S.
- 5 out of 10 kids with no parents present in P.R. lived with a grandparent responsible for grandchildren, compared to 3 out of 10 in the U.S. in 2015.

Figure 5. Family Characteristics for Children of the HOUSEHOLDER (HHer): 2006 and 2015

Figure 5 shows the family characteristics of children of the householder in 2006 and 2015 in P.R. and the U.S.



- In 2015, 58% children in P.R. lived in poverty compared to 32% in the U.S.
- The proportion of children living with a female householder was over 60% in 2015 in P.R. and the U.S.
- In 2015 more children lived with a householder who was in the labor force in P.R. and the U.S. than in 2006. This was also true for children living with householders who had more than a high school diploma (HS).
- In 2015 more children lived with an unemployed householder than in P.R.

Source: American Community Survey 1-yr estimates 2006 & 2015 and Puerto Rico Community Survey 1-yr estimates 2006 & 2015
Notes: All comparative statements are statistically significant at the 0.1 level.
 * Difference is statistically significant between 2006 and 2015 at the 0.1 level.
 • Difference is statistically significant between P.R. 2015 and the U.S. 2015 at the 0.1 level.

Family Migration

We combined information on place of birth and residence one year ago (for the householder parent and Puerto Rican-origin children of the householder who are one year or older) to develop a family migration variable with four categories for each place of residence.

Puerto Rican-origin children in P.R.

Nonmigrants: Families where the child and the householder were born and lived one year ago in P.R.

Long-term immigrants: Families where the child or the householder were born in the U.S. and lived one year ago in P.R.

Recent immigrants: Families where the child or the householder lived one year ago in U.S. and were born in P.R. or the U.S.

Abroad: Families where the child or the householder were born abroad (other than P.R. or the U.S.) or lived abroad one year ago.

Puerto Rican-origin children in the U.S.

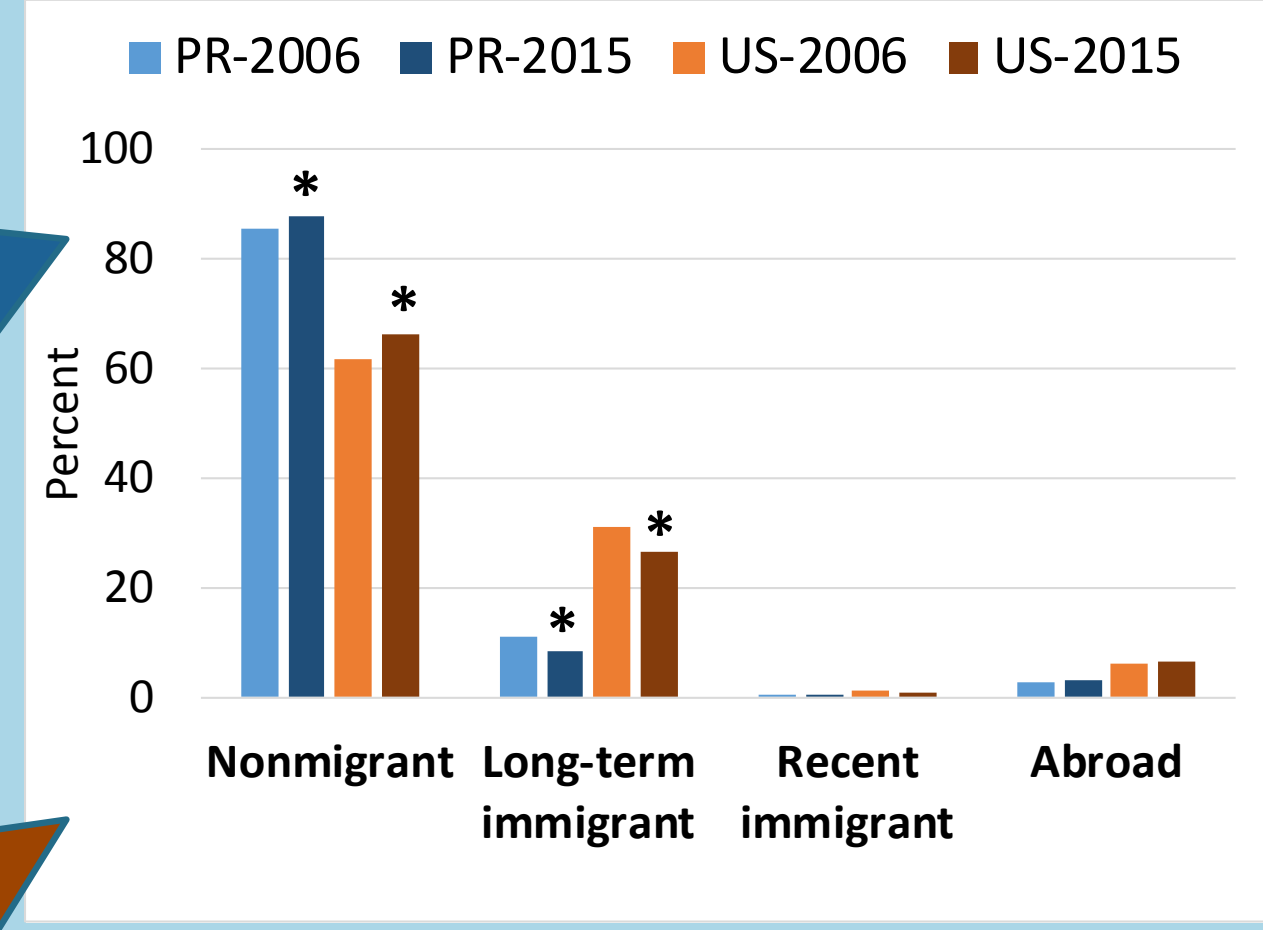
Nonmigrants: Families where the child and the householder were born and lived one year ago in the U.S.

Long-term immigrants: Families where the child or the householder were born in P.R. and lived one year ago in the U.S.

Recent immigrants: Families where the child or the householder lived one year ago in P.R. and were born in P.R. or the U.S.

Abroad: Families where the child or the householder were born abroad (other than P.R. or the U.S.) or lived abroad one year ago.

Figure 6. Children and Family Migration



Source: ACS 1-yr estimates 2006 & 2015 and PRCS 1-yr estimates 2006 & 2015. **Notes:** All comparative statements are statistically significant at the 0.1 level. * Difference is statistically significant between 2006 and 2015 at the 0.1 level.

In 2015, **1 of 10** Puerto Rican children living with at least one parent in P.R. were part of families with migration experiences

In 2015, **3 of 10** Puerto Rican children living with at least one parent in the U.S. were part of families with migration experiences

Other characteristics of children and family migration in 2015 (not shown)

- In P.R. fewer children in recent immigrant families (25%) lived with 2 married parents than children in nonmigrant P.R. families (45%).
- In P.R. children in recent immigrant families also lived with an unemployed householder in lower proportions (5%) than nonmigrants (13%).
- In the U.S. more children in long-term immigrant families (39%) lived with a mother only than children in nonmigrant U.S. families (35%).
- In the U.S. more children in long-term immigrant and recent immigrant families lived in poverty than children in nonmigrant U.S. families (41% and 53% respectively vs. 29%).

Conclusions

Along with the great increase in Puerto Rican-origin children living in the United States, there's been a similar decline of this group in Puerto Rico. Migration is a part of this story. The economic recession in Puerto Rico appears to have motivated a mass exodus to the United States. Consequently, children's living arrangements and household characteristics have changed in both Puerto Rico and the United States in the past decade. The disastrous hurricane season of 2017 will change Puerto Rican-origin children's families in even larger ways. By helping us understand the changes that occurred before the hurricanes, this research serves as a baseline to which we can compare the aftermath of the storms on Puerto Rican families in both the U.S. and P.R.

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