2024

List of the top 30 languages that are spoken or being learned by children age 5 and under in Illinois

Language	Number
English	583,086
Spanish	122,229
Arabic	8,480
Polish	7,976
Ukrainian, Ruthenian, Little Russian	7,590
Urdu	5,463
Chinese	5,376
Filipino, Tagalog	4,477
Gujarathi	4,068
Niger-Congo	3,904
Hindi	3,304
Korean	3,130
Russian	3,059
German	2,170
French	2,026
Bantu	1,698
Rumanian	1,657
Persian, Iranian, Farsi	1,604
Bengali	1,573
Telugu	1,352
Portuguese	1,348
Japanese	1,178
Amharic, Ethiopian, etc.	1,147
Bulgarian	1,021
Nepali	986
Italian	984
Tamil	937
Greek	913
Serbian	882
Czech	845

Source: IPUMS, ACS 1-year estimates

Note: Chinese includes those reporting as speaking Chinese, Mandarin, and Cantonese

2023

List of the top 30 languages that are spoken or being learned by children age 5 and under in Illinois

Language	Number
English	588,571
Spanish	126,617
Arabic	8,591
Polish	6,804
Chinese	5,900
Urdu	3,803
Gujarathi	3,619
Filipino, Tagalog	3,488
Hindi	2,898
French	2,786
Niger-Congo	2,570
Russian	2,351
Rumanian	2,133
German	2,066
Portuguese	2,057
Telugu	1,876
Albanian	1,758
Ukrainian, Ruthenian, Little Russian	1,689
Pashto, Afghan	1,557
Greek	1,385
Hebrew, Israeli	1,346
Korean	1,229
Other Indo-Iranian languages	1,175
Sinhalese	1,146
Burmese, Lisu, Lolo	1,110
French or Haitian Creole	1,106
Mongolian	1,088
Japanese	1,085
Serbian	1,049
Albanian	1,758

Source: IPUMS, ACS 1-year estimates

Note: Chinese includes those reporting as speaking Chinese, Mandarin, and Cantonese

2022

List of the top 30 languages that are spoken or being learned by children age 5 and under in Illinois

Language	Number
English	584,420
Spanish	131,873
Polish	7,263
Arabic	7,066
Chinese	6,116
Urdu	5,618
Niger-Congo	4,677
Gujarathi	4,026
Russian	3,568
Filipino, Tagalog	3,534
Telugu	3,407
French	3,191
Hindi	2,981
Rumanian	2,943
Malayalam	2,040
Lithuanian	1,997
Korean	1,941
Vietnamese	1,924
Tamil	1,867
Serbian	1,513
Greek	1,481
Marathi	1,430
Hebrew, Israeli	1,330
Near East Arabic dialect	1,329
Japanese	1,327
Bantu	1,305
Italian	1,277
Other Asian languages	1,262
Hawaiin	1,174
Italian	1,277

Source: IPUMS, ACS 1-year estimates

Note: Chinese includes those reporting as speaking Chinese, Mandarin, and Cantonese

2021

List of the top 30 languages that are spoken or being learned by children age 5 and under in Illinois

Language	Number
English	633,737
Spanish	157,212
Polish	12,163
Arabic	9,679
Urdu	5,695
Hindi	5,092
Russian	4,676
Chinese	4,445
Filipino, Tagalog	4,039
French	3,977
Niger-Congo	3,160
Rumanian	3,118
Telugu	2,953
Gujarathi	2,824
Korean	2,571
Ukranian, Ruthenian, Little Russian	2,443
Greek	2,150
German	1,878
Vietnamese	1,789
Mandarin	1,640
Other Asian languages	1,567
Tamil	1,422
Albanian	1,397
Serbian	1,374
Portuguese	1,339
Japanese	1,269
Malayalam	1,120
Cushite, Beja, Somali	1,102
Hebrew, Israeli	939
Italian	826

Source: IPUMS, ACS 5-year estimates

2020

List of the top 30 languages that are spoken or being learned by children age 5 and under in Illinois

Language	Number
English	637,139
Spanish	161,017
Polish	13,477
Arabic	10,246
Hindi	5,263
Chinese	5,249
Urdu	5,171
Filipino, Tagalog	4,530
Russian	3,902
French	3,787
Niger-Congo	3,382
Telugu	2,973
Rumanian	2,907
Gujarathi	2,660
Korean	2,393
Greek	2,145
German	2,126
Ukrainian, Ruthenian, Little Russian	2,029
Vietnamese	1,907
Malayalam	1,730
Japanese	1,485
Mandarin	1,424
Tamil	1,353
Cushite, Beja, Somali	1,243
Italian	1,206
Portuguese	1,190
Other Asian languages	1,159
Albanian	1,040
Serbian	1,009
Hebrew, Israeli	880

Source: IPUMS, ACS 5-year estimates

2019

List of the top 30 languages that are spoken or being learned by children age 5 and under in Illinois

Language	Number
English	644,077
Spanish	170,113
Polish	14,924
Arabic	9,809
Chinese	4,975
Urdu	4,742
Filipino, Tagalog	4,352
Hindi	4,332
Russian	4,307
Niger-Congo	3,489
French	3,429
Telugu	3,137
Rumanian	2,685
Korean	2,623
Gujarathi	2,617
Ukranian, Ruthenian, Little Russian	1,992
German	1,970
Vietnamese	1,772
Malayalam	1,745
Greek	1,725
Italian	1,572
Japanese	1,541
Tamil	1,398
Mandarin	1,020
Albanian	987
Cantonese	987
Lithuanian	985
Serbian	961
Portuguese	960
Bantu	906

Source: IPUMS, ACS 5-year estimates

2018

List of the top 30 languages that are spoken or being learned by children age 5 and under in Illinois

Language	Number
English	651,595
Spanish	173,189
Polish	15,644
Arabic	10,002
Chinese	5,011
Urdu	4,719
Filipino, Tagalog	4,451
Hindi	4,244
French	3,947
Russian	3,819
Telugu	3,276
Niger-Congo	3,114
Gujarathi	2,688
Rumanian	2,524
Korean	2,403
German	2,214
Vietnamese	1,935
Ukranian, Ruthenian, Little Russian	1,771
Greek	1,757
Tamil	1,645
Italian	1,614
Malayalam	1,584
Japanese	1,515
Cantonese	1,262
Mandarin	1,109
Serbian	1,031
Albanian	1,002
Hebrew, Israeli	868
Portuguese	820
Lithuanian	818

Source: IPUMS, ACS 5-year estimates

2017

List of the top 30 languages that are spoken or being learned by children age 5 and under in Illinois

Language	Number
English	659,214
Spanish	177,541
Polish	15,976
Arabic	9,626
Filipino, Tagalog	5,424
Urdu	5,010
Chinese	4,946
Hindi	4,381
French	4,362
Russian	3,536
Telugu	3,176
Gujarathi	2,726
Korean	2,543
Rumanian	2,520
German	2,397
Niger-Congo	2,313
Vietnamese	2,010
Ukranian, Ruthenian, Little Russian	2,007
Tamil	1,821
Italian	1,815
Greek	1,610
Malayalam	1,509
Japanese	1,241
Mandarin	1,217
Cantonese	1,207
Serbian	1,046
Lithuanian	999
Albanian	986
Bulgarian	837
Near East Arabic dialect	829

Source: IPUMS, ACS 5-year estimates

2016

List of the top 30 languages that are spoken or being learned by children age 5 and under in Illinois

Language	Number
English	663,611
Spanish	184,706
Polish	16,785
Arabic	9,230
Filipino, Tagalog	5,825
Chinese	5,072
Urdu	4,628
French	4,014
Hindi	3,875
Russian	3,452
Gujarathi	2,990
Telugu	2,956
German	2,755
Korean	2,667
Italian	2,146
Niger-Congo	2,101
Rumanian	1,990
Tamil	1,900
Vietnamese	1,752
Ukranian, Ruthenian, Little Russian	1,673
Malayalam	1,610
Greek	1,568
Cantonese	1,378
Japanese	1,138
Albanian	1,098
Lithuanian	1,067
Mandarin	947
Bulgarian	900
Serbian	849
Bengali	809

Source: IPUMS, ACS 5-year estimates

IECAM provides data for the number of children birth through age 5 in households speaking individual languages or related language groups. Data are based on responses to American Community Survey (ACS) questions, “Does this person speak a language other than English at home?” and “What is this language?” for people age 5 and older. For children under age 5, the data are based on the response to this question by the mother, father or head of household (in order of preference if present in the household). Thus, the data represent the language spoken by the child or likely being learned by the child.

The fact that a child is reported as speaking or learning one of these non-English languages does not imply that the child does not know or is also not learning English.

For these data, the number of households are only for those that include a child age 5 and under.

Data for 2022 and later are based on 1-year ACS estimates. Data for 2016–2021 were based on 5-year ACS estimates.

Source: IPUMS USA