

## U. Miami Undergraduate Survey: Language Demographics

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*In this report, we analyze a cluster of questions (QU13, QU13A, QU13B, QU13C) which asked undergraduates about their language demographics.*

### I. Visualizations and Statistics

#### QU13: Is English your first language?

Total Respondents: 223 out of 312

Yes: 51%

No: 10%

Yes, along with another language(s): 11%

No answer: 29%<sup>1</sup>

#### QU13A: Was more than one language spoken in your family when you were growing up?

Total Respondents: 222 out of 312

Yes: 31%

No: 40%

No answer: 29%

#### QU13B: Do you speak more than one language now on a regular basis?

Total Respondents: 223 out of 312

Yes: 32%

No: 39%

No answer: 29%

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<sup>1</sup> Total is 101% because all percentages were rounded up or down to whole numbers

**QU13C: What languages do you speak or understand? Please check all that apply or add your own.**

Total Respondents: 200 out of 312

- English: 49%
- Spanish: 34%
- French: 7%
- Chinese - Mandarin: 3%
- Italian: 3%
- German: 2%
- Portuguese: 2%
- Arabic: 1%
- Haitian Creole: 1%
- Japanese: 1%
- Russian: 1%
- Vietnamese: 1%
- Chinese - Wu: 0%
- Chinese - Yue: 0%
- Korean: 0%
- Tagalog: 0%
- Other: 9%
- No Answer: 36%

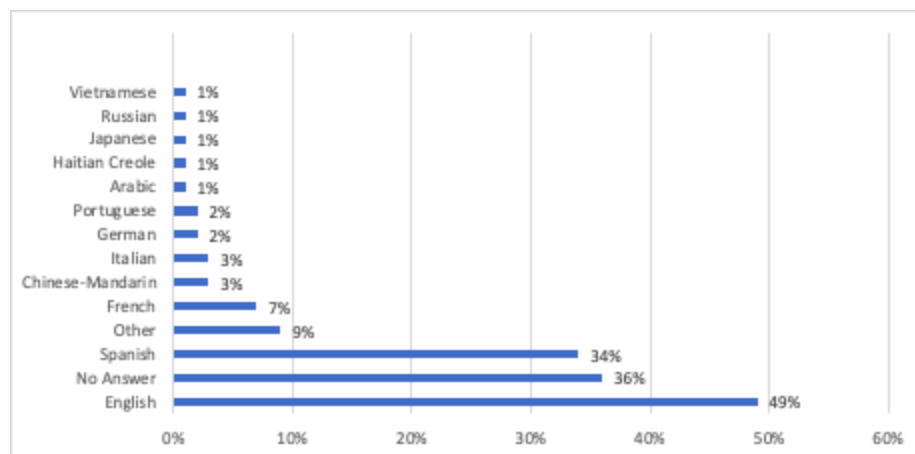


Fig. 1: QU13C results



Fig. 2: QU13C word cloud of respondents who selected "other" and then wrote in other languages.

## II. Observations

The top six languages spoken or understood are English, Spanish, French, Mandarin, German, and Portuguese.

32% of respondents speak more than one language regularly, and 31% had languages other than English spoken at home when growing up. Despite this high number, only 11% reported themselves as bilingual (saying English was their first language along with another language[s]) and 10% reported English as not being their first language. These statistics seem strange.

Some possible reasons for this discrepancy are that respondents lived in households with members from different cultural backgrounds, i.e. a first-generation American child with immigrant parents who don't speak their parents' native language(s), or someone has an immigrant relative. Alternatively, respondents likely have different conceptions of what "speaking a language" entails. Does it mean fluency in both languages or merely adequacy? Does this entail written fluency, oral fluency, or both? Or perhaps, either through social or family pressures, respondents were encouraged not to speak their parents' mother tongue(s).