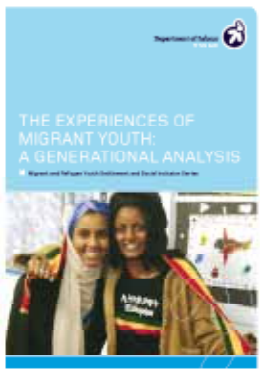


## At a glance

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### PUBLICATION:

### YOUTH



## THE EXPERIENCES OF MIGRANT YOUTH: A GENERATIONAL ANALYSIS.

### MIGRANT AND REFUGEE YOUTH SETTLEMENT AND SOCIAL INCLUSION SERIES

This research commissioned by the Department of Labour is part of a larger International Comparative Study of Ethno-cultural Youth, a project involving 20 researchers in 13 countries with almost 800 adolescents and young adults. The project relies on survey methodology to examine a range of intracultural and intercultural variables.

This report is based on a subset of the New Zealand data and provides a generational analysis of the experiences of migrant youth and where appropriate comparisons between migrant and national youth. Migrant youth includes the first generation (immigrant youth who were born overseas and arrived in New Zealand after the age of 12), the 1.5 generation (immigrant youth who were born overseas and arrived in New Zealand by the age of 12) and the second generation (New Zealand born youth with both parents born overseas).

Overall the results of this research are in accordance with international findings on generational changes in migrant communities. The key findings show:

- Migrant youth have a strong orientation towards their heritage culture, and this largely remains stable across generations as evidenced by strong ethnic identity and frequent contact with ethnic peers. However, ethnic language use and proficiency decrease across successive generations.

- Migrant youth increasingly orient themselves towards the larger New Zealand society. This is evidenced by an increase in national identity, an increase in national peer contacts and more frequent use of and greater proficiency in English over successive generations.
- There are variations in acculturation attitudes over generations. Integration (the preference to maintain cultural heritage and participate in the wider society) is strongly endorsed and remains stable over generations. In contrast, while assimilation (participation gained at the expense of cultural maintenance) is not widely endorsed, it is better accepted amongst second generation youth.
- There are few changes in family values over generations, although first generation migrants see parental obligations as more important than their second generation peers.
- Migrant youth fare as well as or better than their national counterparts in terms of psychological adaptation. There are no significant differences in life satisfaction between groups; however, migrant youth report fewer symptoms of psychological distress. Psychological symptomatology does not vary across generations.

PACIFIC

YOUTH

LISNZ

SETTLEMENT

FAMILY

ECONOMIC

GLOBAL MOBILITY

REFUGEE

CRIME

- Migrant youth report better social adaptation than their national peers; however, there is some evidence that this advantage diminishes over successive generations. For example, second generation migrants report more behavioural problems and poorer school adjustment than their first and 1.5 generation counterparts.

*The Experiences of Migrant Youth: A Generational Analysis* is available from the New Zealand Department of Labour's website at [http://www.dol.govt.nz/publications/research/migrant-youth/migrant-youth\\_01.asp](http://www.dol.govt.nz/publications/research/migrant-youth/migrant-youth_01.asp).

➔ For further information, contact [research@dol.govt.nz](mailto:research@dol.govt.nz), or visit [www.immigration.govt.nz/research](http://www.immigration.govt.nz/research)