

5 reasons



to be hopeful about Immigrant Youth!

Our research on immigrant youth is part of a wider study on the settlement outcomes for Canadian Immigrant Women, Youth and Seniors which is funded by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada. You can read the full report here.

We have analyzed:

- 102 scholarly articles
- Articles were published between 2008 and 2017
- We have also analyzed grey literature

For more information on this research, kindly read the [research summary](#) or contact Naolo Charles, Knowledge Exchange Officer.



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Immigrant youth have positive academic performance

Studies reveal that immigrant youth perform better at school than Canadian-born youth. Girls tend to report higher academic achievement and attachment to school than immigrant boys. However, immigrant youth performance varies depending on country of origin, experience of racism and language exclusion, and parental educational attainment

Immigrant youth are healthier than Canadian born youth

Immigrant youth tend to have cultural practices that help them avoid certain health risks; such as eating a healthy diet and smoking less while simultaneously being more engaged in sports activities than Canadian-born youth.



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Immigrant youth are less involved in criminality and gangs

Studies demonstrate that the number of newcomer youth involved in gangs overall is comparatively small. For some immigrant youth with pre-migration trauma and those living in a low-income household, such conditions constitute risk factors that can lead to involvement in criminality. However, the small number of newcomer youth involved in anti-social behaviors does not justify the growing attention to issues of immigrant youth radicalization and criminality.

We could hire more immigrant youth!

Immigrant youth are educated and willing to work but they experience high rates of unemployment and underemployment. This is especially true for visible minorities and immigrant girls who cannot access the labour market as easily as male immigrant youth.



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Immigrant youth are caregivers but who is helping them?

Many immigrant youth, especially females, have caregiving responsibilities in addition to their work, their studies and their social lives. They deal with a complex set of circumstances, including unemployment in the family unit, which often leads to stress and mental health issues. Unfortunately, cultural barriers and stigma lead many to avoid seeking help.