First and Second Generations of Immigrant Youth from Ethiopia and the Former Soviet Union – Similarities and Differences

Research Team: Paula Kahan-Strauczynski
Sharon Amiel ♦ Dganit Levi ♦ Viacheslav Konstantinov

Study Coordinator, Ministry of Immigrant Absorption: Sara Cohen

The study was conducted with the support of the Harry Weinrebe Fund for the Advancement of Children
First and Second Generations of Immigrant Youth from Ethiopia and the Former Soviet Union – Similarities and Differences

*Research Team:*
Paula Kahan-Strawczynski       Sharon Amiel
Dganit Levi                  Viacheslav Konstantinov

Study Coordinator, Ministry of Immigrant Absorption: Sara Cohen

The study was conducted with the support of the Harry Weinrebe Fund for the Advancement of Children

Jerusalem                      November 2012
Related Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute Publications


To order publications, please contact the Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute, P.O.B. 3886, Jerusalem, 91037; Tel: (02) 655-7400; Fax: (02) 561-2391; E-mail: brook@jdc.org.il

Reports are also available on the Institute website: www.jdc.org.il/brookdale
Acknowledgments

We would like to thank all those who have assisted with this study.

Firstly, our warmest thanks to the respondents, who gave so much of their time to share their experiences of the integration process.

We are grateful our partners in the study and members of the study's steering committee: Sara Cohen, director of the Social Service at the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption and chair of the steering committee; Rachel Gindin, former director of the Research Department at the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption; and Hana Kupfer, current director of the Division, for their support throughout the study and for sharing their professional experience.

Thanks, too, to the other members of the steering committee who oversaw the analysis of the findings, especially Maya Sharir, director of the Immigrant Absorption Division at the Ministry of Education, for her helpful comments on the research report; as well as Daphni Moshayov, coordinator, Immigrant Absorption Authority, Social and Personal Welfare Division, Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Services; Dr. Zeev Khanin, chief scientist at the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption; Nikolay Noy Tabah, coordinator of Back from the Edge, Shatil at the time of the study; and Dr. Sary Fayer, senior director, Department of Education Community Absorption, Ministry of Immigrant Absorption.

Finally, we thank our colleagues at the Myers-JDC-Brookdale Institute who helped at various stages of the study. We are particularly grateful to Prof. Jack Habib, director of the Institute, Miriam Cohen-Navot, director of the Engelberg Center for Children and Youth, Dalia Ben-Rabi, senior researcher at the Engelberg Center for Children and Youth, and Ayala Hendin, senior research assistant, for their important insights. Thanks to Ben Schlomi for his dedication in coordinating the fieldwork, and special thanks to Assaf Ben-Shoham, Moshe Nordheim and Assaf Sharon for their advice with the sample. Many thanks to Revital Aviv Matok for her great help organizing the report, to Anat Barbarian for editing it, Naomi Halsted, for the English translation, and Leslie Klineman for preparing the report for publication.
Table of Contents

1. Introduction 1
   1.1 Main Conclusions 2

2. First and Second Generation of Immigrants – Factors that Facilitate or Delay their Success in Life (Literature Review) 3
   2.1 Introduction 3
   2.2 Factors that Facilitate or Delay the Successful Integration of Immigrant Youth 4

3. The Study: Goals, Population, Data Collection Method 12
   3.1 Study Goals 12
   3.2 Study Population 13
   3.3 Sampling Process 14
   3.4 Data Collection Method 15
   3.5 Data Analysis and Presentation 16

4. Socio-Demographic Characteristics of the Adolescents and their Families 16
   4.1 Personal Characteristics of the Adolescents 16
   4.2 Characteristics of the Adolescents' Families 17
   4.3 Religious Identity and Jewish Identity 19

5. Proficiency in Mother Tongue and Hebrew 21
   5.1 Language Spoken at Home with the Parents 22
   5.2 Proficiency in Mother Tongue 23
   5.3 Proficiency in Hebrew 26

6. Scholastic Performance and Perception of School 27
   6.1 Adolescents' Studies and Characteristics of the Schools 27
   6.2 Scholastic Status of the Students 29
   6.3 Scholastic Assistance and Unmet Need for Scholastic Assistance 31
   6.4 Students' Experience of School 34
   6.5 Absenteeism 36
   6.6 Students' Perception of their Parents' Involvement in School 37
   6.7 Academic Aspirations 38

7. Social Status 40

8. Informal Education and Recreational Activities 42
   8.1 Patterns of Participation in Information Activities 42
   8.2 Patterns of Unstructured Recreational Activities 44

9. Paid Work 48

10. Risk Behaviors and Physical and Emotional Symptoms 49
    10.1 Violence and Feeling Unsafe 49
    10.2 Alcohol Consumption 52
    10.3 Smoking 54
    10.4 Involvement in Criminal Behavior 55
    10.5 Physical and Emotional Symptoms 56
11. Relationships with Parents
12. Sense of General Well-Being
13. Patterns of Seeking Counseling and Support
14. Preparing for Military/National Service
15. Perceptions and Attitudes towards People from Other Groups of Origin
   15.1 Perception of Reciprocal Relations among Members of Different Groups of Origin
   15.2 Qualities Attributed to Members of Other Groups
   15.3 Unwillingness for Social Rapprochement
16. Acculturation Strategies of the Youth
17. Sense of Belonging in Israel
18. Assessment of the Integration Process
19. Trends by Gender
20. Programmatic Directions
   20.1 Programmatic Directions for all First and Second Generation Immigrants and
       Topics for Rethinking
   20.2 Programmatic Directions – Ethiopians
   20.3 Programmatic Directions – FSU
Bibliography
Appendix I: Aspirations of Senior High School Students for Post-High-School/Academic Education: Multivariate Logistic Regression Analysis
Appendix II: Trends, by Gender and Group of Origin

List of Tables

3. The Study: Goals, Population, Data Collection Method
   Table 1: Study Population and Sample, by Group of Origin
   14

4. Socio-Demographic Characteristics of the Adolescents and their Families
   Table 2: Characteristics of the Adolescents, by Group of Origin
   Table 3: Age of the Adolescents at the Time of Immigration, by Group of Origin
   Table 4: Characteristics of the Families, by Group of Origin
   Table 5: Economic Measures: Ownership of Durable Goods and Going on Vacation, by
            Group of Origin
   Table 6: Religious Identity and Jewish Identity, by Group of Origin

5. Proficiency in Mother Tongue and Hebrew
   Table 7: Language Spoken with Parents at Home, by Length of Time in Israel
   23
6. Scholastic Performance and Perception of School

Table 10: School Attendance Rate among 12–17 and 15–17 Year-Olds, by Group of Origin 27
Table 11: General Characteristics of Students at School, by Group of Origin 28
Table 12: Scholastic Status of Students, by Group of Origin 29
Table 13: Students Eligible for a Matriculation Certificate, 2009/10, by Group of Origin 31
Table 14: Need for Scholastic Assistance, by Group of Origin 34
Table 15: School and the Perceived Atmosphere in School, by Group of Origin 35
Table 16: Attitude of the School Staff as Perceived by the Students, by Group of Origin 36
Table 17: Regular Absenteeism from School, by Group of Origin 37
Table 18: Parents’ Involvement in School, as Perceived by the Students, by Group of Origin 38

7. Social Status

Table 19: Proportion of Immigrants of the Same Origin in the Class – Assessment of FSU and Ethiopian Immigrants (Both Generations), by Group of Origin 40
Table 20: Social Status, by Group of Origin 42

8. Informal Education and Recreational Activities

Table 21: Participation in Informal Activities, by Group of Origin 44
Table 22: Money for Recreational Activities and Pastimes, by Group of Origin 44
Table 23: Consumption of Israeli Culture in Hebrew, by Group of Origin 45
Table 24: Computer and Internet Use, by Group of Origin 47

9. Paid Work

Table 25: Paid Work, by Group of Origin (Age 15-17 Only) 49

10. Risk Behaviors and Physical and Emotional Symptoms

Table 26: Victims of Violence and Participation in Violence, by Group of Origin 50
Table 27: Lack of Sense of Safety, by Group of Origin 51
Table 28: Alcohol Consumption among 15–17-Year-Olds, by Group of Origin 54
Table 29: Smoking among 15–17-Year-Olds, by Group of Origin 55
Table 30: Emotional and Physical Symptoms, by Group of Origin 56
11. Relationships with Parents
Table 31: Perceived Supportive Relationship with Parents and Joint Activities with Parents, by Group of Origin 57
Table 32: Attitudes of First and Second Generation Immigrants towards their Parents’ Behavior, by Group of Origin 59

12. Sense of General Well-Being
Table 33: Satisfaction with Life and Wish to Change Life, by Group of Origin 60

13. Patterns of Seeking Counseling and Support
Table 34: Patterns of Seeking Support/Counseling, by Group of Origin 62

14. Preparing for Military/National Service
Table 35: Attitudes to Enlistment in Military/National Service, by Gender and Origin – Ages 16-17 64
Table 36: Intentions and Preferences for Military/National Service, by Group of Origin – Ages 16-17 (2010 Only) 65

15. Perceptions and Attitudes towards People from Other Groups of Origin
Table 37: Mutual Relationships between Immigrants and Non-Immigrants, as Perceived by the Respondents, by Group of Origin 67
Table 38: Mutual Relationships between FSU Immigrants (Both Generations) and Ethiopian Immigrants (Both Generations), by Group of Origin 69
Table 39: Qualities Attributed to Members of the Other Groups, by Group of Origin 71
Table 40: Unwillingness for Social Rapprochement by Group of Origin 72

16. Acculturation Strategies of the Youth
Table 41: Acculturation Strategies of the Youth, by Group of Origin 75

18. Assessment of the Integration Process
Table 42: Assessment of Integration in Israel, by Length of Time in Israel – First Generation Immigrants from the FSU and Ethiopia 78

List of Tables in the Appendices
Table I-1: Aspirations of Senior High School Students for Post-High-School/Academic Education, by Group of Origin, Logistical Regression Multivariate Analysis 105
Table II-1: Patterns of Religious Identity, by Group of Origin and Gender 106
Table II-2: Language Spoken at Home with Parents, by Group of Origin and Gender 106
Table II-3: Importance of Preserving the Mother Tongue, by Group of Origin and Gender 107
Table II-4: General Characteristics of the Students in School, by Group of Origin and Gender

Table II-5: Scholastic Status of the Students, by Group of Origin and Gender

Table II-6: Students' Perception and Attitudes towards School, by Group of Origin and Gender

Table II-7: Students' Perception of the Attitudes of the School Staff, by Group of Origin and Gender

Table II-8: Students' Perception of their Parents' Involvement in School, by Group of Origin and Gender

Table II-9: Aspirations of Senior High School Students for Post-High-School/Academic Education, by Group of Origin and Gender

Table II-10: Social Status, by Group of Origin and Gender

Table II-11: Participation in Informal Activities, by Group of Origin and Gender

Table II-12: Money for Recreational Activities and Pastimes, by Group of Origin and Gender

Table II-13: Consumption of Israeli Culture in Hebrew, by Group of Origin and Gender

Table II-14: Use of Computer and Internet, by Group of Origin and Gender

Table II-15: Paid Work among 15–17-Year-Olds, by Group of Origin and Gender

Table II-16: Victims of Violence and Participation in Violence, by Group of Origin and Gender

Table II-17: Smoking among 15–17-Year-Olds, by Group of Origin and Gender

Table II-18: Alcohol Consumption among 15–17-Year-Olds, by Group of Origin and Gender

Table II-19: Emotional and Physical Symptoms, by Group of Origin and Gender

Table II-20: Respondents' Assessment of Parent's Knowledge about their Lives, by Group of Origin and Gender

Table II-21: Patterns of Seeking Support/Counseling, by Group of Origin and Gender

Table II-22: Attitudes to Military/National Service among 16–17-Year-Olds, by Group of Origin and Gender

Table II-23: Attachment to Israel, by Group of Origin and Gender
List of Figures

Figure 1: Language Spoken at Home with Parents, by Group of Origin 22
Figure 2: Receipt of Scholastic Assistance, by Group of Origin 32
Figure 3: Aspirations of Senior High School Students for Post-High-School/Academic Education, by Group of Origin 39
Figure 4: Summary Measure: Lack of Sense of Safety, by Group of Origin 52
Figure 5: Respondents' Assessment of Parent's Knowledge about their Lives: Summary Measure, by Group of Origin 58
Figure 6: Attachment to Israel: Summary Measure, by Group of Origin 77