

Immigrant and Refugee Children: Post-migration Emotional and Behavioural Adjustment

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Overview

1. What we know about adjustment among immigrant and refugee children and adolescents

2. How we conducted the meta-analysis

3. Preliminary results, challenges, next steps

Collaboration



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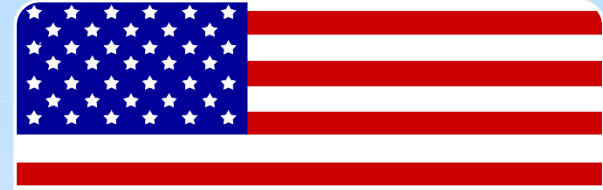
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Why study immigrant & refugee youth?

- * Migration poses unique **challenges** for children and their families
 - * Forced migration
 - * Trauma
- * The primary **resettlement countries** continually shifting
 - * Political context in resettlement country
- * Providing **services** to these families new to our countries

What do we know so far?

Study	Type	Sample	Major Findings	Limitations
Porter & Haslam, 2005	Meta-analysis (56 studies)	22,221 Refugee & internally displaced	Refugees' <u>mental health</u> was <u>poorer</u> than nonrefugees	Did not distinguish between children, adolescents, adults
Bronstein & Montgomery, 2011	Systematic review (22 studies)	3,003 Refugee youth	Refugee youth reported <u>higher levels of distress</u> than did normative comparisons	Limited to youth self-report
Fazel et al., 2012	Systematic review (44 studies)	5,776 Displaced and refugee children	Identified both <u>pre- and post-migratory</u> risk and protective factors	Includes multiple generations of refugees
Dimitrova et al., 2016	Meta-analysis (51 studies)	224,197 Immigrant (and non) youth	<u>Impact varied</u> by sample characteristics	Limited to Europe; no descriptions of measures

Why meta-analysis?

- * Meta-analysis: a statistical technique for combining results across a number of studies, permitting examination across:
 - * Diverse populations
 - * Various research designs
 - * Different measures of adjustment

Anticipated contributions of this meta-analysis

Immigrants and
refugees

Newcomers

Established
measures:
Reliable and valid

Meta-analytic Plan

Defined
Terms

Reviewed
Abstracts

Extracting
Data



Searched
Databases
(ongoing alerts)

Full-text
Review

Meta-
analysis

Complete

Ongoing

Definition of Terms & Search Strategy

- Immigrant
- Refugee
- Asylum-seeker
- Displaced persons

Newcomers



- Child
- Youth
- Adolescent
- Parent
- Families

Families



- Adjustment
- Adaptation
- Well-being
- Mental Health
- (Parent-child relations)
- (Parenting)
- (Parental Psychopathology)

Adjustment



Studies that included:

Child Psychological Adjustment



Children and adolescents 19 years old and younger



Families migrated within past 10 years



Children migrated with their parent(s)



Used a psychometrically strong measure of child adjustment

Results

Identification

27,024:
Records through databases

15,509:
Duplicates excluded

Screening

11,515:
Abstracts reviewed

8,131:
Excluded

Eligibility

3,384:
Full-text articles

1,297: Excluded

2,036:
Remain to be evaluated
(updated search: 2017)

Included

60 articles

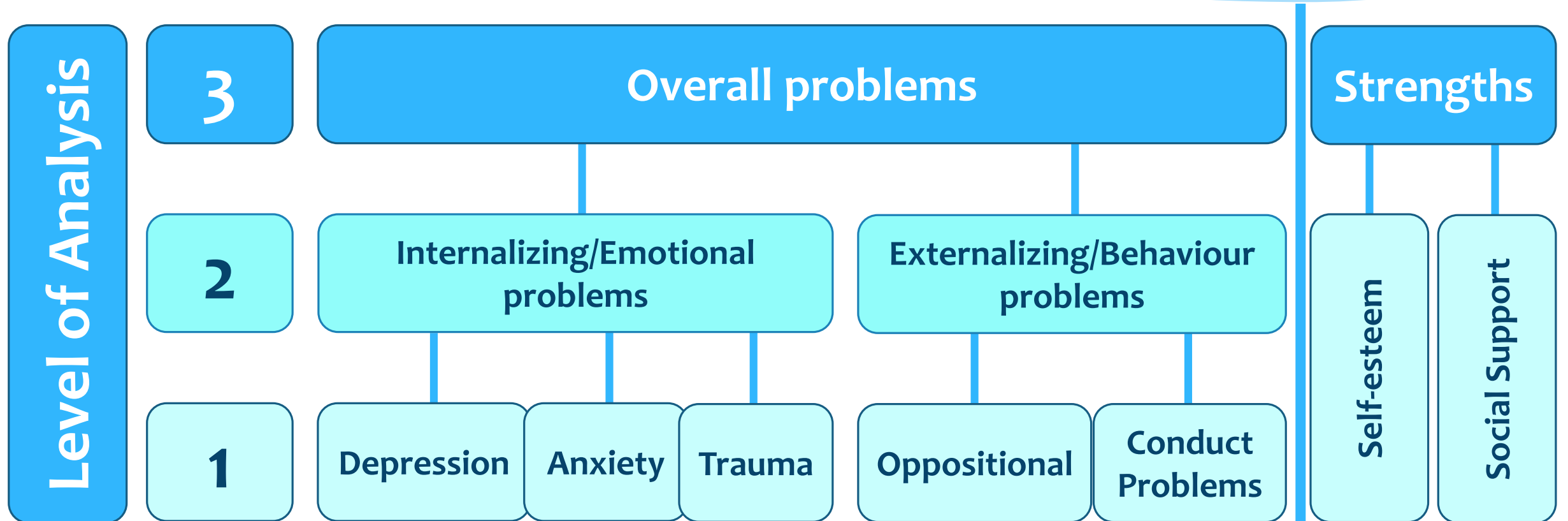
16 articles: preliminary data

52 entries for child
adjustment

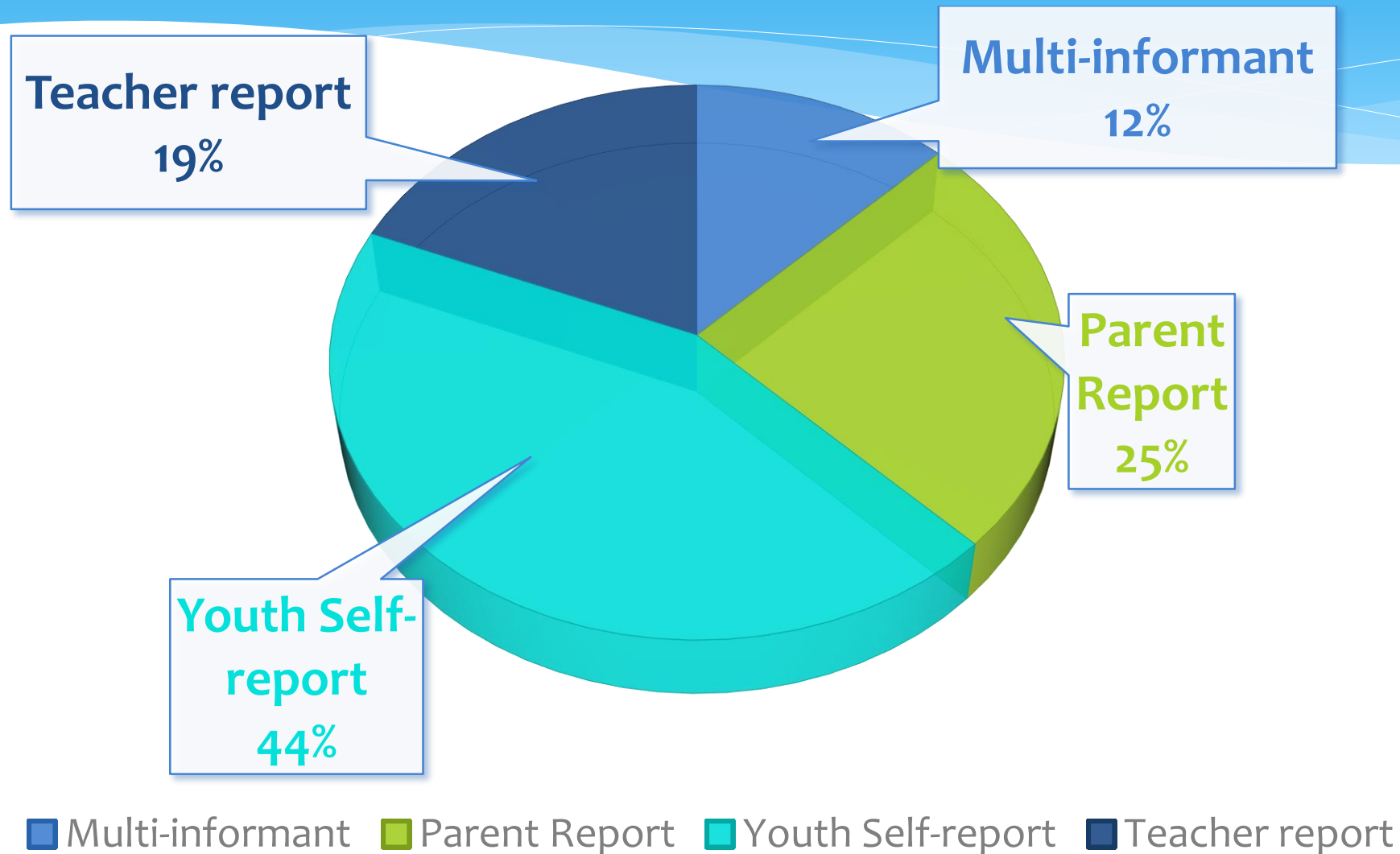
Demographic data of selected studies

Status in Host Country	# Studies	Countries of Origin	# Youth	Host Countries	Time in Host Country
Refugee	5	Africa, East Asia, South-east Asia, Eastern Europe, Middle East, South America	n = 1,454	Belgium, Australia, Netherlands, UK	“Recent” – 5.5 years
Immigrant	10	Central & South America, China, Eastern Europe, Asia, Somalia, Morocco, Middle East, Hong Kong	n = 2,792	USA, UK, Norway, Israel, Canada, Italy	1 – 10 years
Combined Immi/Refugee	1	111 countries represented	n = 1,187	Belgium, Holland	“Recent”
	16	TOTAL	N = 5,433		

Adjustment measures



Who is reporting on child adjustment?



What are they measuring?

Status in Host Country	Number of Studies	How many measured:			
		Overall Adjustment	Internalizing problems	Externalizing problems	Trauma
Refugee (Asylum-Seeker)	5	4	1	1	1
Immigrant (Migrant)	10	7	3	3	3
Combined I/R	1	0	0	0	1

What do these reports suggest?

Problems	Overall Effect Size (Hedges's g)	Range of Effect Sizes across subsamples
Overall Problems (24 calculations)	0.02	-2.40 to 1.81
Externalizing (9 calculations)	0.10	-0.77 to 1.54
Internalizing (9 calculations)	0.27	-0.73 to 1.76
Trauma (10 calculations)	0.67	0.00 to 1.43

- * Across all indices: effect sizes differed significantly across samples.
- * This indicates that additional variables need to be examined to account for these differences

Challenges encountered

- * A lot is written
- * Terms and definitions are not consistent
- * The focus is on clinical impressions with little attention to the use of valid measures
- * Challenges determining eligibility based on available information

Implications for parenting supports

- * Newly-arrived parents and their needs in parenting their children
- * Implications for training and practitioners' interactions with families who have been forced to migrate or elected to transition to a new country

Where do we go from here?

- * Spring, 2018:
 - * Complete remaining full-text evaluations and integrate with existing data
 - * Integrate ongoing research updates until May, 2018, then finalize available data
- * Examine moderators that may explain the variability in adjustment across samples
- * Repeat this strategy to examine how parents adjust following migration (and how this may influence their parenting)

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