

Facts and Figures: International Migrant Children and Adolescents (0-19 yrs)

Globally, there are some 35 million international migrants under 20 years of age.

There are some 35 million migrants under the age of 20, which represents around 15 per cent of the total migrant population.

Middle and late adolescents (15-19 yrs.) represent the largest group among child and adolescent migrants.

Among the 35 million international migrants under 20 years of age, 15 to 19 year olds account for some 33 per cent (11 million) of all migrants under the age of 20, followed by 10-14 year olds who comprise 26 per cent (9 million). Age groups 5 to 9 and 0 to 4 represent 22 per cent (8 million) and 20 per cent (7 million) of the total migrant population under 20 years of age respectively.

Developing countries host a higher proportion of child and adolescent migrants.

Around 22 million international migrants under 20 years of age reside in least developed and developing countries, accounting for 62 per cent of the total migrant population under the age of 20. In contrast, some 13 million migrant children and adolescents reside in developed countries, representing approximately 38 per cent of international migrants under 20 years of age.

Significant regional differences exist in the proportion of child and adolescent migrants.

Child and adolescent migrants comprise the largest group of the total migrant population in Africa (30 per cent) followed by Latin America and the Caribbean (24 per cent), Asia (20 per cent), Oceania (12 per cent), Europe (10 per cent), and Northern America (9 per cent).

There are regional variations among child and adolescent migrants.

In Africa, the group 15 to 19 years of age represents around 29 per cent of the total migrant population under 20 years of age, while the group 0 to 4 represents 22 per cent.

In Northern America, migrants between 15 and 19 years of age represent 43 per cent of the total migrant population under the age of 20, while in Latin America and the Caribbean the group 15-19 represents 25 per cent. The group 0 to 4 years of age represents 12 and 24 per cent in Northern America and Latin America and the Caribbean respectively.

In Asia and Oceania, the group 15 to 19 represents 29 and 30 per cent respectively, while the group 0 to 4 years of age represents 23 and 22 per cent of the total migrant population under 20 years of age respectively.

In Europe, international migrants between 15 and 19 years of age represent 39 per cent of the total migrant population under 20 years of age, while migrants between 0 and 4 represent 14 per cent of all migrants under 20 years of age.

Among children and adolescents, male migrants outnumber female migrants globally.

Globally, there are 90 female migrants for every 100 male migrants under the age of 20.

Regional differences exist among the proportion of male and female child and adolescent migrants.

In Northern America there are 96 female migrants for every 100 male migrants, while in Latin America and the Caribbean there are 97 female migrants for every 100 male migrants under 20 years of age. In Asia and Oceania there are 82 and 96 female migrants for every 100 male migrants under 20 respectively, while in Europe there are 93 female migrants for every 100 male migrants. In contrast, in Africa there is virtual parity, that is, for every 100 male migrants there are 101 female migrants under the age of 20.



MigrantINFO

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UNDP
Special Unit for South-South Cooperation

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Notes:

- Changes from previous versions of this factsheet reflect estimates up to mid-2010 rather than latest available data points.
- Data includes foreign born and foreign citizens. Foreign born refers to persons born outside the country of enumeration. Foreign citizen refers to persons who do not have the citizenship of the country of enumeration. Scales are drawn using Jenks natural breaks to reflect the nature of the distributions.
- The designations "least developed", "developed countries" and "developing countries" are used for statistical purposes and do not reflect any judgement about the stage reached by a particular country in the development process. Developed countries are those in Europe, Northern America plus Australia, New Zealand and Japan. Developing countries are all the rest.
- The boundaries and the names shown and the designations used on all of these maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.
- Data Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2013). Trends in International Migrant Stock: Migrants by Sex and Age (United Nations database, POP/DB/MIG/Stock/Rev.2013).