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Second Generation Immigrants: Their Self-Esteem & Educational Aspirations

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Introduction

• Immigrants experience unique stresses & discrimination, which leads to lower levels of self-esteem. (Stets & Burke, 2003; Kao, 1999; Gee et al., 2010).
• Do Second-Generation Immigrants experience the same thing?
• If so, will that affect their educational expectations for the future?

Hypotheses

• The children of immigrants will have lower self-esteem than their peers.
• This lower self-esteem will negatively affect their educational expectations for the future.

Data

• National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY79)
• Sample Size: 3,999
  • Ages 14-18
  • 522 second-generation immigrants

Model

Race  SES  Sex

Second-Generation Immigrant  Educational Expectations  Self-Esteem

Results

• More Non-Immigrants have high levels of self-esteem (38.5%) than Second-Generation Immigrants (35.4%).
• Second-Generation Immigrants expect to go about 1 Year more of school than Non-Immigrants
• Second-Generation Immigrants are more likely to expect to go to graduate school than Non-Immigrants
• With every 1 unit increase in self-esteem, a person expects to go to 0.2 more years of school.
• Blacks have higher educational expectations than other racial groups, while Hispanics have the lowest expectations.

Conclusion

• Although Second-Generation Immigrants are more likely to have lower self-esteem than Non-Immigrants, the difference is small, and does not seem to affect their educational expectations.
• Second-Generation Immigrants actually have higher educational expectations!

Future Research

• What are Second-Generation Immigrants doing different?
• Are they reaching their expectations?
• Do race & country of origin matter?