

# Adolescents, Youth and International Migration: Figures and Facts (10-24 y/o)



**Globally, there are approximately 35 million adolescent and youth international migrants.**

*There are approximately 35 million international migrants between the ages of 10 and 24 years, which represents about 17 per cent of the total migrant population.*

**20-24 year olds represent the largest group among adolescent and youth migrants.**

*Among the 35 million adolescent and youth international migrants, 20 to 24 year olds account for some 44 per cent (15 million), followed by middle and late adolescents (15-19 years of age) who comprise 32 per cent (11 million), while early adolescents (10-14 years of age) represent 25 per cent (9 million).*

**Developing countries host a higher proportion of adolescent and youth migrants.**

*Approximately 21 per cent of the total international migrant population residing in less developed countries is between 10 and 24 years of age. In contrast, adolescents and youth represent 14 per cent of the total migrant population residing in more developed countries.*

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

*The proportion of adolescent and youth migrants in the total international migrant population is highest in Africa (26 per cent), followed by Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean (19 per cent), Europe (14 per cent) and Northern America and Oceania (13 per cent).*

**There are regional variations among adolescent and youth migrants.**

*In Africa, 20-24 year olds represent approximately 40 per cent of the total adolescent and youth international migrant population, while 10-14 year olds make up 27 per cent.*

*In Latin America and the Caribbean, international migrants between 20 and 24 years of age represent 38 per cent of the total adolescent and youth migrant population, whereas the 10-14 age group represents 29 per cent.*

*In Asia and Oceania, 20-24 year olds represent 41 per cent of adolescent and youth migrants, while 10-14 year olds represent 28 (Asia) and 25 (Oceania) per cent of the adolescent and youth migrants.*

*In North America and Europe, the differences are more pronounced. The 20-24 and the 10-14 age groups account for approximately 47 and 22 per cent of the adolescent and youth population, respectively.*

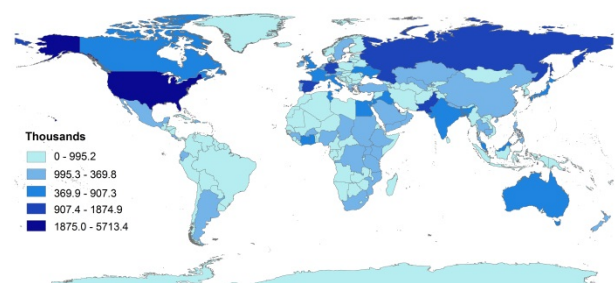
**Among adolescents and youth international migrants, males outnumber females.**

*Globally, there are 94 female migrants for every 100 male migrants between 10 and 24 years of age. Migrant girls are less numerous in less developed countries. In developing countries there are 100 male migrants for every 92 female migrants between the ages of 10 and 24. In developed countries there are 100 male migrants for every 96 female migrants between the ages of 10 and 24.*

**Regional differences exist in the proportion of male and female adolescent and youth migrants.**

*In Asia and North America, there are 85 female migrants for every 100 male migrants between 10 and 24 years of age. In contrast, in Africa, Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean, for every 100 male migrants there are 110, 102, 101 female adolescent and youth migrants. In Oceania there is parity among the proportion of male and female adolescent and youth migrants.*

**Number of adolescent and youth international migrants:  
A global picture**



May 2012

**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, North America, Australia, New Zealand and Japan. The rest are "developing countries".
- The boundaries, names and designations used on maps do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.