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Suicidal ideation and distress among immigrant adolescents: the role of acculturation, life stress, and social support.

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Abstract

Acculturative stress and social **support** play important roles in **suicide**-related phenomena among adolescent immigrants. To examine their contributions, measures of acculturative and general life stress and a measure of multiple sources of social **support** were used to predict psychological distress and suicidal ideation among Korean-born high school students residing in the US. Korean students who were sojourning without both parents were compared to Korean students who immigrated with both parents, Korean students who remained in Korea, and American high school students in the US (total N = 227; 56.8% female). The sojourning group reported higher levels of life stress, distress, psychological symptoms, and suicidal ideation than the other groups. Within the two acculturating groups, levels of distress, symptoms, and suicidal ideation were associated with life stress, lack of parental **support**, and not living with both parents. The findings have important implications for **suicide** prevention among immigrant adolescents, and imply that parental **support** is particularly **protective**.

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Publication Types, MeSH Terms

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