

ABSTRACT

DISSERTATION: The influence of single-mother migration on social and emotional adjustment in Jamaican adolescents

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The purpose of this study was to investigate the relationship between single-mother migration and social and emotional adjustment in Jamaican adolescents, and to ascertain what factors influenced adolescent adjustment. The participants were 187 Jamaican adolescents ages 13 to 17 years, from five high schools and two junior high schools from a rural parish. There were 64 males and 123 females. The participants were divided into two groups – migrant and non-migrant. There were 100 participants in the migrant group and 87 in the non-migrant.

Multivariate analyses of variance (MANOVA) and regression analyses revealed that while there were no significant differences between the groups in social adjustment, the migrant group reported higher self-esteem and lower depression than the non-migrant group, and adolescent adjustment was predicted by family support and single-mother absence.

Implications for future research suggest the utilization of a mixed method approach to examine adolescent adjustment and point to the need for further research to reinforce and expand the findings of this study.