



4.1.1 What is Cultural Discordance?



Graphic created by CICH using an image from Big Stock Photo.

Immigrant and refugee children and youth living in Canada may experience the phenomenon of 'cultural discordance or dissonance'. This is defined as the perceived conflict or disagreement between the child/youth's culture of origin and the culture in Canada when it comes to social norms, behaviours and maintenance of one's heritage culture in the host society/country.¹

Often this happens when families come to Canada with young children – the children grow up learning and following Canadian culture, which may be different from their parents' heritage or home culture.¹ Two important areas of safety and security in the lives of immigrant children and youth are examined in the context of cultural discordance – bullying and peer aggression and suicide thoughts and attempts. In addition, sexual and reproductive health and cultural discordance are considered. These findings are based on a systematic review – [review the methodology here](#).

¹Rohmann A, Florack A, Piontkowski U. The role of discordant acculturation attitudes in perceived threat: An analysis of host and immigrant attitudes in Germany. *Int J Intercult Rel* 2006; 30:683-702.

