

Immigration Survey Monitoring Programme – Migrants Survey Indicators

MAKING FRIENDS AND SOCIALISING IN NEW ZEALAND

July 2012

Why is this important?

Socialising and making friends can help newcomers understand and integrate into New Zealand society through providing a network of practical and emotional support.

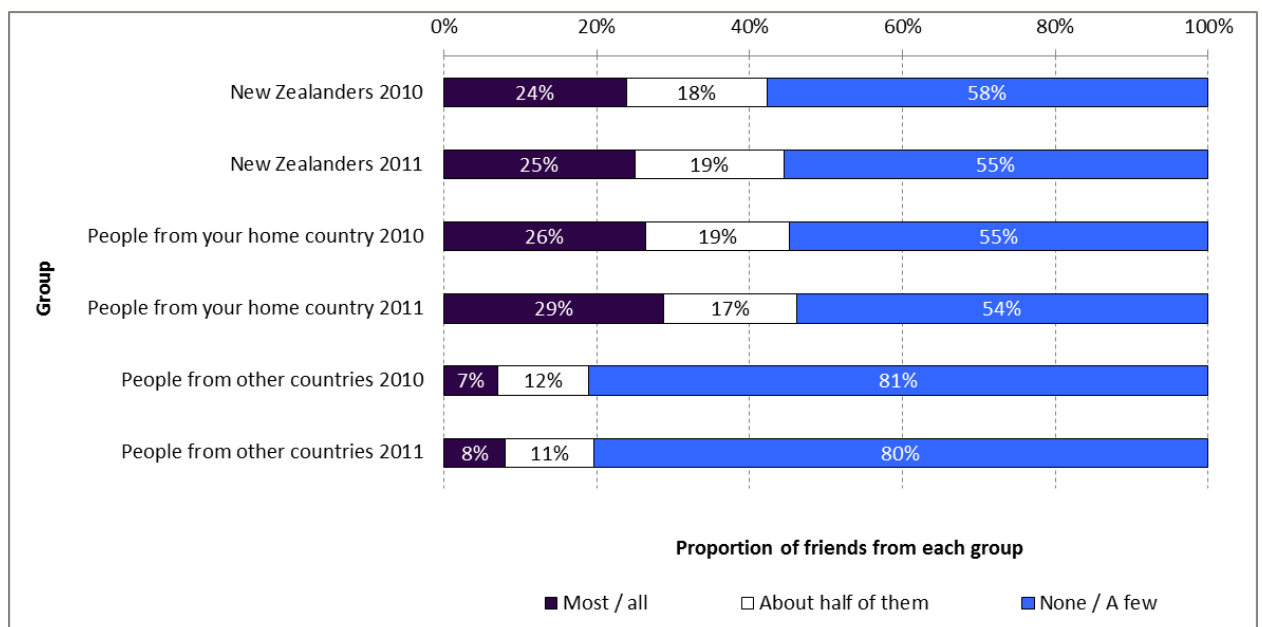
What we found - Friends

Around a quarter of recent migrants stated that most or all of their friends were New Zealanders¹ and more than half stated that none or only a few of their friends were New Zealanders. These proportions did not change much from 2010 to 2011.

The proportions were similar for friendships with people from their home country, with slightly more recent migrants stating that most or all of their friends were from their home country in 2011 compared with 2010 (29 percent, compared with 26 percent). More than half stated that none or only a few of their friends were from their home country.

Four out of five stated they had no or few friends from other countries.

Figure 1: Recent migrants' proportion of friends from various groups 2010-2011



Source: Immigration Survey Monitoring Programme Migrants' Survey (2010 & 2011)

¹ Respondents were given the options of New Zealanders, people from their home country or people from other countries. It was up to the respondent to define for themselves what New Zealander meant.

↳ Immigration Survey Monitoring Programme – Migrants Survey Indicators

Those who were the most likely to have New Zealanders as friends were migrants from the UK/Irish Republic and North America. Those who were least likely to have New Zealanders as friends were from North Asia, South Asia and South East Asia.

Conversely, those who were most likely to have friends from their home country were those from North Asia and South East Asia and those who were least likely to have friends from their home country were those from the UK/Irish Republic and North America.

The longer migrants had been in New Zealand, the more likely they were to have New Zealand friends, with 30 percent of migrants who had been here for over 5 years in 2011 stating that most or all of their friends were New Zealanders, compared with 15 percent of those who had been here for less than 6 months.

Interestingly, the same results were evident for friendships with people from their own country, with 37 percent of those who had been here for more than 5 years stating that most or all of their friends were from their home country compared with 23 percent of those who had been here for less than 6 months.

What we found - Social

Around four out of ten recent migrants stated that they often or very often socialised with New Zealanders² (41 percent), with less than a quarter stating that they never or seldom socialised with New Zealanders.

The proportions were similar for frequency of socialising with people from their home country. Around four out of ten recent migrants stated that they often or very often socialised with people from their home country (44 percent) and less than a quarter stated that they never or seldom socialised with people from their home country.

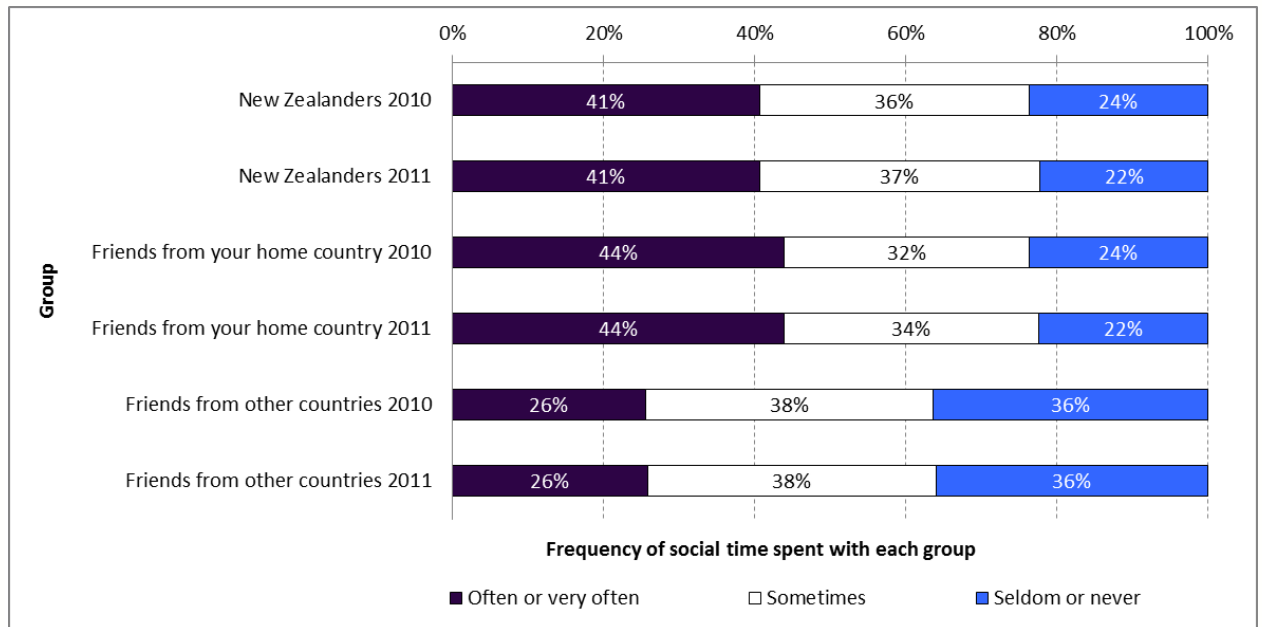
One third (36 percent) stated they never or seldom socialised with people from other countries.

² Respondents were given the options of New Zealanders, friends from their home country or friends from other countries. It was up to the respondent to define for themselves what New Zealander meant



Immigration Survey Monitoring Programme – Migrants Survey Indicators

Figure 2: Amount of social time recent migrants spent with various groups 2010-2011



Source: Immigration Survey Monitoring Programme Migrants' Survey (2010 & 2011)

Those who were the most likely to have socialised often or very often with New Zealanders were migrants from the UK/Irish Republic and North America. Those who were least likely to have socialised often with New Zealanders were from North Asia and South East Asia.

Conversely, those who were most likely to have socialised often or very often with people from their home country were those from South East Asia and South Asia, and those who were least likely to have socialised often or very often from their home country were those from North America, the rest of Europe and the UK/Irish Republic.

Unlike friendships, the length of time spent in New Zealand seems to make little difference to how often migrants socialise with New Zealanders.

The purpose of the Immigration Settlement Monitoring Programme is to improve our understanding of migrants' settlement and labour market outcomes, employers' experience with migrants, and community attitudes towards immigration.

These indicators are available at:

<http://www.dol.govt.nz/research/migration/ism/ism indicators.asp>

Contact the Labour and Immigration Research Centre at research@dol.govt.nz or visit us at www.dol.govt.nz/research.

