

Spiritual State of the World’s Children: Summary Table, El Salvador



Notes: 70% of respondents were under 16 years of age. In all cases, reported respondents are those who participated in the survey and answered the question. Not all participants answered all questions. SSWC is produced for OneHope by the Metadigm Group.

El Salvador	Positive Aspects	Negative Aspects	Key Notes
Family Relationships and Perspectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 77% of respondents say that the family experience has been positive. 64% report that home is “Where I feel safe and loved.” 52% of students report that their parents are married. 47% say they are very close to their fathers. 73% are very close to their mothers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24% of respondents live with one parent. 19% report that their parents are divorced and separated. 29% frequently wonder if their mothers love them. 23% frequently wonder if their fathers love them. 32% almost never talk to fathers about personal concerns. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80% think of family as a group of people who love each other or share common values. Only 15% identify family as relationship by blood, marriage, or adoption. Mothers are reported significantly closer than fathers to the students. Female and urban students report a marginally higher rate than the overall 8% who “feel uncomfortable and would rather be elsewhere” when they are at home.
Relationships with People of the Opposite Sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 89% agree that God intended marriage to last a lifetime. 84% expect to be very happy in their marriages. 70% of respondents (86% of females, 57% of males) would like to be a virgin when they get married. 60% agree that premarital sex for a couple in love is never morally acceptable. 85% report they have not had sexual intercourse. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 66% agree that it is now very hard to have a successful marriage. 23% of male respondents have had sexual intercourse (versus 6% of females). 32% of respondents report that they are very likely to have sexual intercourse if their parents would not find out. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Boys report more sexual activity than girls. The difference increases with the intensity of the activity. Of factors that influence the likelihood to engage in sexual intercourse, feeling that parents would not mind or would not find out and being in love are the most significant. 60% did not learn about sex from their parents.
Behaviors and Beliefs in Daily Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 96% of respondents report that they did not use illegal drugs in the three months before the survey. 93% were not legally drunk in that time period. 89% did not use tobacco. 87% did not try to hurt someone physically or emotionally. 84% did not gamble. 80% did not view pornography. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 58% say that it’s ok to break the law as long as it doesn't hurt anybody. 54% report that they lied to a friend or peer in the three months before the survey. 50% lied to an older person or parent. 43% cheated on an exam. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respondents’ thoughts and actions are most influenced by parents, the Bible, and the Christian faith. Males reported significantly more gambling and more viewing of pornography than females. Urban students were significantly more likely than rural students to have recently cheated or lied.
Religious Background and Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 89% report that faith is very important in their lives. 71% can think of a time when their beliefs changed the way they behaved. 49% of all respondents pray daily. 40% report daily personal religious practice. 35% believe that they will go to heaven because they accepted Jesus. 63% say they have made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ that is still important in their lives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 34% do not know what will happen when they die. 37% say God is no longer personally involved in their lives. 68% of respondents agree that if something works in their life it is morally right. 61% believe that moral truth means different things to different people—that no one can be absolutely positive that they have the truth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 97% of survey participants believe in God, but 9% believe in fortune telling and horoscopes and 29% might believe in those things. 89% believe that God is the creator of the universe who rules the world today. Most of those responding (over 70%) indicate that church and family were their sources of information about Jesus and the Bible.
Identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 59% reported that they are very satisfied with their lives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9% had suicidal thoughts in the 3 months before the survey. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most influential (greater than 70% answering “a lot”) for future quality of life (in descending order) are health, education, job, purpose for life, relationship with God, home ownership and marriage.