

Spiritual State of the World's Children

Liberia





Spiritual State of the World's Children A Quantitative Study

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY FOR MINISTRY

Liberia

February 2011

Prepared by:



©2011 OneHope
600 S.W. Third Street, Pompano Beach, FL 33060
www.onehope.net



ONEHOPE

OneHope is a non-profit organization with a mission to *affect destiny by providing God's eternal Word to all the children and youth of the world.* With programs in over 125 nations OneHope has reached over 620 million children and young people with a special presentation of the life of Jesus. Committed to presenting God's Word in a format that is relevant and dynamic, research is a critical step in the development of country and age specific products and programs.



The Metadigm Group is a non-profit research organization with the goal of equipping other organizations to conduct research and improve their efficacy. Processes necessary to achieve organizational priorities and embed research skills into day-to-day organizational operations are developed through seamless processes offered in data collection, strategic planning, market profiles, and outcomes development. For more information, please visit www.metadigmgroup.com or email us at info@metadigmgroup.com.

When citing this report, please use the following reference:

OneHope, Inc. (2011). *Spiritual state of the world's children: a quantitative study. Executive summary for ministry. Liberia.* Retrieved from: <http://onehope.net/sswc/country-research/>

Table of Contents

	Page
Section I: Key Issues Analysis	5
Key Issues	5
Strengths & Opportunities	7
Weaknesses & Threats	7
Recommendations	7
Section II: Project Description	8
Acknowledgments	8
Overview	8
Research Methodology	8
Project Overview	9
Logistics	9
Implementation & Survey Administration	10
Section III: Profiles of Liberia Youth	11
Data Qualifications	11
Demographics	11
Family Relationships	12
Attitudes toward Family and Relationships with the Opposite Sex	13
Daily Activities and Attitudes	14
Religious Beliefs and Practices	14
Section IV: Liberia Secondary Data	16

Section I: Key Issues Analysis

Key Issues

- Family composition
 - 49% indicate living in a two-parent family (includes 15% living in a two-parent household where one is a step-parent)
 - 25% indicate parents are divorced, separated, or remarried
 - 16% indicate that one parent has died
 - 11% indicate living with their mother or stepmother only
- Perception of Family
 - Definition of family
 - 63% define family as those related by birth, adoption or marriage
 - 13% define family as any person or group whom you love or care about deeply
 - 13% define family as any group of people who live together
 - 11% define family as any group of people who shares the same set of values and goals in the life
 - Function of family
 - Place for children –
 - 55% consider a single woman with children a family
 - 67% consider an unmarried man and woman with children a family
 - Relationship –
 - 13% consider an unmarried man and woman a family
 - 8% consider homosexual men a family
 - 9% consider homosexual women a family
- Relationship with parents
 - 50% spend 15 minutes or less a week talking with their father about things that really matter
 - 29% spend 60 minutes or more a week talking with their father about things that really matter
 - 31% spend 15 minutes or less a week talking with their mother about things that really matter
 - 51% spend 60 minutes or more a week talking with their mothers about things that really matter
- Safety and Security of home
 - 47% feel their home is a place where they feel safe and loved
 - 21% feel only sometimes loved in their homes
 - 13% feel comfortable in their home, but would not consider their family close
 - 10% are uncomfortable and would rather be elsewhere
 - 9% feel each person in their family is trying to love another
- Marriage
 - 89% feel that they will be happy in their marriage
 - 88% believe marriage is intended to last a life time
 - 78% believe marriage problems have been exaggerated
 - 74% feel the traditional family does not play a significant role in the stability of society
 - 40% approve of divorce even when children are involved
 - 40% indicate that anyone who gets married should anticipate divorce
 - 28% report there is too much pressure to get married, would rather live together
 - 18% admire single life

- Sexuality
 - 68% have had sexual intercourse
 - 45% would like to be a virgin at marriage; 67% would regain their virginity if it were possible
 - 14% consider sex to be always acceptable and 28% sometimes acceptable
 - Most likely to learn about sex from classmates/friends, sex-related magazines/books, and TV/movies
 - They are least likely to learn about sex from their parents and the internet
- Satisfaction with life
 - 39% very satisfied with their lives and 26% are somewhat satisfied with their lives
 - 35% are somewhat or very dissatisfied with their lives
 - Over the past three months –
 - 53% report watching MTV
 - 52% admit having lied to their peers
 - 45% indicate they have lied to an adult
 - 29% watched a pornographic movie and 24% read a pornographic magazine
 - 23% indicate that they have intentionally tried to emotionally hurt someone
 - 13% have drunk enough to be considered legally drunk
 - 7% have had suicidal thoughts
 - 7% have attempted suicide
- Influences (cited as having *a lot* or *some* influence over thoughts and actions)
 - 75% Bible/books of their beliefs (56% a lot of influence)
 - 74% Christianity (57% a lot of influence)
 - 72% Parents (50% a lot of influence)
 - 65% Teachers (38% a lot of influence)
 - 62% Textbooks (39% a lot of influence)
- Moral behavior
 - 71% feel lying is sometimes a necessity
 - 69% feel bending the rules is okay
 - 50% are pragmatic indicating in several ways that moral behavior is relative and justified by whether or not it “works”
 - 28% feel that breaking the law is okay if it does not hurt anyone
- Factors providing future satisfaction (cited as having *a lot* of importance)
 - 94% having a degree
 - 93% living with a high degree of integrity
 - 91% having a clear purpose for living
 - 91% having close relationship with God
 - 91% having good physical health
 - 90% having a comfortable lifestyle
 - 90% owning a large house
 - 89% having one marriage partner for life

- Religious Practice
 - 95% religion is very (89%) or somewhat (6%) important to them
 - 58% report weekly or daily prayer
 - 47% participate in weekly or daily religious services; 80% indicate a high likelihood of attending religious services after graduating from High School
 - 38% report weekly or daily scripture reading, including the Bible, Koran, or other religious scriptures
 - 31% participate in weekly or daily youth group
- Christian Theology
 - 97% believe that Jesus was born to a virgin
 - 95% do know what happens after death
 - 93% believe that there will be a final judgment by God
 - 93% believe that forgiveness of sins comes only through Jesus Christ
 - 92% have heard about Jesus and the Bible from Churches, 84% from family, and 84% from other (which may include TV or radio)
 - 91% believe that prayer can change what happens in life
 - 90% believe the Bible is accurate in all of its teachings (97% believe that the miracles in the Bible took place)
 - 89% believe that church membership is important
 - 88% believe the Bible provides a clear and indisputable description of moral truth (79% believe this truth is the same for all people)
 - 87% believe that God created the universe (78% believe that He is still personally involved in people's lives)
 - 79% believe that Jesus Christ was a real person
 - 74% are certain of the existence of Heaven and Hell
 - 69% believe that truth can mean different things to different people and no one can be sure that they know the truth
 - 42% believe if a person is generally good, or does enough good things for others during their life, they will earn a place in Heaven
 - 35% believe that spiritual development is not necessary for leading a satisfying life
 - 19% believe that people who do not accept Jesus Christ as their savior can still go to Heaven
 - 9% do not know what they believe about God

Strengths & Opportunities

- To be completed by OneHope Anglophone Africa Team

Weaknesses & Threats

- To be completed by OneHope Anglophone Africa Team

Recommendations

- To be completed by OneHope Anglophone Africa Team

Section II: Project Description

Acknowledgments

This project was made possible in part by funding from the Maclellan Foundation and Global Ministries - OneHope.

We acknowledge the cooperation of the Liberian Ministry of Education, the headmasters and staff of the schools included in the sample, the cooperation of students and volunteers.

The Attitudes & Behaviors of Youth (ABY) instrument administered in this study was made available by Josh McDowell Ministries.

Overview

OneHope seeks to understand what children and youth deal with in their day-to-day realities. We know that children and youth face a variety of social challenges and experience psycho-social needs to which they are often left without effective responses. We do know that the needs of children vary from country to country and even regionally within countries. However, without reliable information we are unable to tailor our products and distribution programs to address needs specific to particular contexts.

While the issues and challenges facing children and youth in developed countries are researched and documented, those in developing countries are not. Without an accurate analysis of their contexts these populations are treated as though they share a common reality. An awareness of the immediate reality of children is often discovered only after ministry has begun and resources have been committed to a project.

As part of OneHope's Spiritual *State of the World's Children* study, the Attitudes and Behaviors of the Youth (ABY) project will capture the following information about children in Liberia:

- Typical family situations, relationships and parental contact
- Behaviors and moral values guiding relationships with peers of the opposite sex
- Daily occupations and pastimes
- Worldviews, influences, beliefs, future goals, and religious affiliation
- Theological perspectives and commitment

Research Methodology

The Attitudes and Behavior of the Youth project utilizes the ABY survey, which is a stratified random survey of secondary school children. The survey was stratified by degree of urbanization and gender for Liberia. Additional strata that permit analysis are: family composition, ethnicity, and religious affiliation.

The core survey was constructed using the Survey of Juveniles designed by Chris Sleath of Josh McDowell Ministries. The survey was administered in secondary schools in English. Surveys were administered in randomly selected accessible¹ schools segregated by population density (proportional to national population distribution of urban-rural residents) to students in the schools randomized by gender (proportional to the national ratio of male-female).

¹ Schools considered inaccessible are those that are in conflict zones, areas of extremely low population or that cannot be reached by public transportation.

Project Overview

The time frame for data collection was September, 2010 through November, 2010. Mamuna Kamara served as the local Research Coordinator for the Liberia research project. Oversight was provided by Pete Gackenbach and Dr. Allen Reesor of Pompano Beach, Florida. The research followed project design instructions (see below under Logistics).

Data was entered into a web-based database, which was hosted by Philip Issa of Elite Research. The final report includes Metadigm Group’s analysis of the data, which has been reviewed by Rene Paulson, PhD. Secondary data is provided when applicable. This report is available for use by partners supporting the utilization of collaborative research in conducting ministry to children and youth.

The final report will be made available to ministry partners who promote ministry to children and youth through collaborative research.

LogisticsReview

National leaders reviewed the survey and recommended minor edits.

Randomization

Reliability of the survey results depends upon consistent randomization of the participants. Two strata of randomization that govern participant selection employed in this project were gender and population density distributions.

The Liberian Ministry of Education provided a list of schools segregated by population density.

Population density was interpreted as either urban or rural. Additionally, the study population was further segregated into one of two classes: less than one hundred thousand or between one hundred thousand and one million. This list was used to select randomly identified schools at Metadigm Group Headquarters. The list of randomized schools was returned to the local Research Coordinator for review. Schools that were inaccessible (see footnote on inaccessibility above) were replaced by following randomization procedures.

To ensure that gender participation reflects the male/female ratio of the national population, randomization by gender was finalized when students were selected for participation.

Verifying Access

Research Assistants met with the administration of each school to explain the survey and obtain school consent for participation.

Survey Printing

A master copy of the survey response form was forwarded electronically to the local Research Coordinator who received bids for the printing of 5,000 collated and stapled copies.

Quality Control

Hard copies of the survey response form were randomly assessed to evaluate survey validity. Hard copy survey response forms will be retained by the local Research Coordinator for one year to verify the accuracy of data entry if needed and as a back up to electronic data files. The surveys are kept confidential and will be turned over to a designated OneHope Headquarters representative on or about 12 months following the close of data collection. After 12 months, a OneHope representative will oversee the destruction of all hard copy surveys.

Implementation & Survey Administration

Data Collection

The survey was administered in the schools identified by randomization and previously contacted. The research agent will identify the number of classes in session on the day of the survey.

- If the average class size at a school was less than 30 students, 15 classes were randomly selected for inclusion in the study. 15 students from each class were randomly selected proportional to the male/female ratio for Liberia.
- If the average class size at a school was more than 30 students, 10 classes were randomly selected for inclusion in the study. 22 students from each class were randomly selected proportional to the male/female ratio for Liberia.

Students were asked to voluntarily participate. Participants were administered the survey in groups that could be accommodated in a classroom. Approximately 200 students were surveyed at each school.

The surveys were conducted by two people. A brief scripted introduction was read aloud and students were given the opportunity to ask questions. Administrators took turns reading each question aloud to students.

The following assisted with data collection: Leamon P. Gluaseay, Hawa Duwor, Rose H. Cheeks, Emmanuel Whiegar, and Reginald Mondor.

Data Entry

The local Research Coordinator was responsible for accurate input of the data into the web-based survey database. The following assisted with data entry: Edward Massaquoi and Daniel Mulbah.

Section III: Profile of Youth in Liberia

Data Qualifications

The survey sample includes 3,918 participants and since male participants in this study are 5% over sampled, general attitudes will somewhat skew towards male opinions. It is also significant to note that 90% of the sample is older than 15 years of age and due to the small sample of participants 15 years and under, no statistically significant findings can be reported for this group.

NOTE: Since about half of participants are over the age of 18 years, we have a sample with an older average age of participants in the grades 10-12 than would be expected. This could be attributed either to the methodology of data collection or the phenomenon of delayed education for many as a consequence of the unrest during the conflict era. *The lack of younger participants in the analysis should be considered if making a comparison of the overall attitudes of this sample compared to others in the ABY study.*

Demographics

Of the 3,918 participants in this study, 56% are male and 44% female. By population distribution 37% reside in semi-urban areas, 36% reside in rural areas and 27% in urban areas. Urban participants are more likely to be female than male. By age, 54% of participants are over the age of 18 years, 36% are 16-18, and 10% are 13-15 years old. Male participants are more likely (by 11%) than female participants to report being older than 18. Urban participants are most likely to be those under the age of 17, while semi-urban participants are more likely to be older than 18.

Half of the participants are students in grades 11-12, 37% grades 9-10, and 12% grades 7-8. Urban participants are more like than their semi-urban and rural counterparts to be enrolled in grades 7-10. Approximately half of the participants indicate they are doing *excellent* in school with an additional third reporting that they are doing *good* in school; 6% are doing *poorly* or *very poorly* and 7% *average*. Rural participants are more likely at 7% than semi-urban and urban participants to report *very poor* school performance, while semi-urban participants are more likely than their counterparts to report their performance as *average*.

For one-third of the participants, the most likely employment category for parents is *other* (possibly working from home, self-employed or unemployed). They also report that 26% of fathers and 31% of mothers are employed in *agriculture*, 18% of mothers in the *service industry* and just fewer than 20% of fathers in either the *public sector* or as *professionals*. The urban participants when compared to semi -urban or rural participants are more likely to indicate parents have *other* employment or are employed in the *public sector* and for their mothers in the *service industry*.

Family Relationships

Nearly half of the participants feel safe and loved in their homes; one-in-five consider their homes a place where they only sometimes feel loved, one-in-ten that their homes is a place where they feel comfortable but would not consider their family to be close and another one-in-ten feel uncomfortable and would rather be elsewhere. Urban participants are more likely to feel secure than their rural and semi-urban counterparts.

Thirty-four percent of participants live with their natural parents, while 18% report living in a category identified as *other* (which may indicate they are in boarding school or an orphanage), 15% live with two parents where one is a step-parent, 13% with no adult (which may indicate they are in a boarding school), and 11% live only with their mother or stepmother. Urban participants are more likely than their semi-urban and rural counterparts to indicate that they live with two parents (natural or step-parents), and are less likely to indicate not living with an adult.

The parents of 42% of participants are married, 19% are either divorced or separated, 16% of participants indicate that one parent has died, and 14% that their parents' marital status is other (possibly unmarried). Semi-urban participants are more likely than their rural and urban counterparts to have parents who are either divorced or separated; urban participants are more likely to indicate their parents fall into the *other* category and less likely to report that one parent has died.

Participants report that 61% of the adults with whom they live are interested in who they are and about half demonstrate love for other adults in the home, set good examples for participants, yet expect more of them than what is fair. Urban participants are more likely than their semi-urban and rural counterparts to indicate that the adults in their families shout at them.

One-half of participants report a very close relationship with their mothers and one-third with their fathers; however about 10% report that their relationship with one or both parents is not at all close. One-in-five participants report that their father has died and the other participants report a less close relationship with their fathers. Female participants are more likely than male participants to report a very close relationship to mothers and urban participants are more likely to report a very close relationship to both parents than their rural and semi-urban counterparts. Rural and semi-urban participants are more likely to report that their father has died than urban participants.

Showing love for their parents, feeling proud of them and feeling that parents show love to them are indicated by three quarters of participants for their mothers and just over half for fathers. About six out of ten report that they seek personal advice from mothers, but only four out of ten from fathers. Male participants are more likely to interact with fathers and female participants with their mothers.

However, in a typical week 50% of participants spend less than 15 minutes a week in meaningful conversation with their fathers and 31% with their mothers. Of those who spend more than four hours a week in meaningful conversation 33% report this is the case with their mothers and 15% with their fathers. Semi-urban participants are least likely to report spending time in meaningful conversation with their parents.

Attitudes on Family, Marriage and Sex

The majority of participants (63%) define family as those related by birth, adoption, or marriage; while others tend to define family as emotional, or proximity relationships. Unmarried heterosexual couples with children are defined as family by 67% of participants and an unmarried woman with children by 55%. Just over one-in-ten consider heterosexual couples without children or two divorced women who live together to be a family. Less than 10% consider homosexual (gay or lesbian) couples to be a family. Rural participants are more likely than their semi-urban and urban counterparts to consider adults with children a family whether or not they are married.

Eighty-nine percent of participants believe that God intended marriage to last a lifetime and that they will be happy in their own marriages; however 28% also indicate that they would rather live together than get married. Seventy-eight percent believe that marriage problems are generally exaggerated, yet 71% acknowledge that it is difficult to have a successful marriage. Although 71% would consider their family experience to be a positive one, only 58% of participants desire a marriage like that of their parents'. Sixty percent of participants do not believe couples who are no longer in love and have children involved should divorce, nor do they anticipate divorce in their own marriages. Forty-five percent of participants express the desire to remain a virgin until marriage, and 67% would like to retain or regain their virginity if possible. However, 74% do not feel that society would collapse if the traditional family fell apart. Female participants are more likely to value virginity than male participants who are somewhat more likely to feel family contributes the stability of society and prefer cohabitation to marriage.

Participants are most likely to learn about sex from classmates/friends, sex-related magazines/books, and TV/movies; they are least likely to learn about sex from their parents. If presented with the opportunity to engage in sexual intercourse, participants are more likely to do this if they intend to marry or if their parents would not find out or mind and if they were in love with the person. When asked what is permissible for two people in love and when there is no coercion, about a quarter find the more intimate activities sometimes acceptable. Female participants are more likely than male participants to condone embracing and kissing and urban participants are more likely than their rural and semi-urban counterparts to feel sexual activities are acceptable.

Overall 68% of participants have engaged in sexual intercourse, and almost as many have engaged in sexually intimate behavior with male participants being more likely than female participants to report these activities. Urban participants are significantly less likely than their rural and semi-urban counterparts to have engaged in sexual activities of all types.

Beliefs and Perspectives on Daily Life

Although 39% of participants are very satisfied with life and 26% are somewhat satisfied, 12% are not at all satisfied with their lives and 7% have attempted to kill themselves in the past 90 days. Urban participants are somewhat more likely than their rural and semi-urban counterparts to report life satisfaction.

The strongest influences in the lives of participants are Christianity, the Bible/books of their beliefs, their parents, teachers, and textbooks. These are followed by siblings, media (music, TV and movies) and friends. Just over 50% watch MTV every week and by far, the most popular media are electronics (MP3, cell phone, laptop computer). Urban participants are more likely than their rural or semi-urban counterparts to enjoy fashion magazines, Hip Hop, and facebook/blogging.

When asked what they felt were important for future satisfaction with life, in descending order 90% or more indicated having a degree, living with a high degree of integrity, having a clear purpose for living, good physical health, having a close relationship with God, having a comfortable lifestyle, making a difference in the world, owning a large house, and having one marriage partner for life.

In a normal week, participants spend the most of their free time studying, reading (books and the Bible/books of their beliefs), and sleeping; with about 30% spending 8 or more hours in these activities. Both rural and semi-urban participants are more likely than their urban counterparts to spend their time reading a book.

In moral formation religion is important for many; 79% believe that the Bible provides clear descriptions of moral truth, the same percentage can recall a time when their beliefs have affected their behavior and 69% believe that either the Bible or Koran provide practical guidelines for daily life. Despite this, 69% believe that truth can mean different things to different people and 49% believe that truth can be defined in contradictory ways.

In their attitudes toward moral behavior 71% of participants believe that lying is sometimes necessary, 69% feel it is OK to bend the rules and half think that something is morally or ethically right if it works in their lives. When asked about their behaviors in the past 90 days 52% of participants have lied to a friend, 45% to an adult and 30% have cheated on an exam. Pornography is a problem for about one quarter with 29% watching pornography and 24% reading it. One-in-four participants have intentionally tried to emotionally hurt someone. Male participants are significantly more likely than female participants to have gambled, watched MTV, watched pornography or read pornography, or lied to a friend. Rural participants are slightly more likely to use an illegal drug and less likely to intentionally attempt to emotionally hurt someone than their semi-urban and urban counterparts.

Religious Background and Practice

Participants indicate that for 89% their religion very important in their lives and 91% that their faith is very important to them. In this sample, participants' religious affiliation is as follows: 54% Protestant, 14% Roman Catholic, and 11% Islamic. The male and semi-urban participants are more likely than female, urban or rural participants to be Islamic; rural participants are more likely to be Protestant. Participants report that 92% have heard about the Bible or Jesus in churches, 84% from family or relatives, and 84% from other sources (possibly radio or TV).

Although 80% of participants believe they are very likely to attend religious services after graduating from high school, currently only 47% attend religious services at least weekly, another 7% monthly and 46% rarely or seldom attend any religious services. Of their family members, participants' fathers are about as likely as they are to attend religious services and their mothers are about 10% more likely to attend religious services than participants do.

Prayer is by far the most likely reported religious activity with 58% engaging in weekly or daily prayer. Thirty-eight percent indicate that they read scriptures weekly or daily and 31% attend a youth group or religious youth study group at least weekly. For those attending youth groups, 22% attend a group of 1-19 people, 36% attend a group of 20-39 people, and 27% attend a group of over 40 people. Male participants are more likely than female participants to pray and read religious scriptures. Rural participants are more likely than urban participants to engage in prayer and scripture reading.

More than 90% of participants believe that God created the universe and that God exists; while 87% define God as the omniscient, omnipotent Creator of the world who rules today. About three quarters of this sample believe human souls are eternal and that Heaven and Hell are real places. Three-quarters of participants believe that you will go to Heaven if you confess your sins and accept Jesus Christ as Savior, and one-tenth believe that following religious rites will gain access to Heaven. However, almost half of the participants are also certain other religious practices are helpful and that ghosts exist.

About 10% did not respond to questions about Christian doctrines. Of those responding 90% or more believe Biblical miracles really happened, Jesus Christ was virgin born, there will be a final judgment, that the forgiveness of sins comes only through faith in Christ, that they have a personal responsibility to share their faith, and that the Bible is completely accurate in all of its teachings. Christianity is relevant to 83% of participants and 81% agree that acceptance of Christ as savior is the only way to Heaven; yet 56% state that all major religions pray to the same God and despite 79% who believe that Jesus Christ was a real person, 53% believe that he did not physically return to life after dying.

When asked if they had ever made a decision to accept Jesus Christ as savior, which is still meaningful in their lives, the Christian participants responded that for 91% of them this is true. Of those having made a commitment to Jesus Christ, 36% made this decision between 16-18 years old, 26% between 13-15 years old, and 17% between 9-12 years old.

Section IV: Liberia Secondary Data

**Secondary Research Profile
Liberia**



DEMOGRAPHICS & POPULATION	
Est. Population (2010)	3,591,365
Population (under 15 yrs)	43.039%
Life Expectancy	41.13yrs
Birth Rate (per 1,000 people)	49.58
Infant Mortality (per 1,000 live births)	130.51
Estimated Urban / Rural Population	1,810,474/1,970,006
Largest City / Population	Monrovia/1,063,340
EDUCATION & LITERACY	
Literacy Rate (over 15 yrs)	57.50%
Primary Enrollment	66%
Literacy Rate – Males	73.30%
Literacy Rate – Females	41.60%
ECONOMICS	
GDP (purchasing power parity) (per capita)	\$477.17
GDP (official exchange rate) (per capita)	\$228.42
Poverty Rate (% below poverty line)	80%

SOCIAL			
Human Development Index ² (out of 182)	162	Prisoners (per capita)	Not Available
Divorce Rate <i>as percent of Marriages</i>	Not Available	Adult prevalence rate 15-49 with HIV AIDS	1.7%
Unemployment Rate	85%	Contraceptive Prevalence (women 15-49 yrs)	10%
Access to Improved Sanitation Facilities	27%	Teen Pregnancy (15-19 yrs)	221.95/1000
Prevalence of Undernourishment	50%	Child Marriage	38%
Dependents to Working Age Population	0.97	Child Labor	21%
Children Orphaned <i>due to all causes (0-17yrs) 2007, estimate (thousands)</i>	270		
ETHNIC GROUPS & RELIGIONS			
Other Indigenous Groups	41%	Christian	40%
Kpelle	17%	Indigenous Beliefs	40%
Bassa	10%	Muslim	20%
Kru	10%		
Gio	6%		
Mawe	6%		
Buzi	5%		
Americo-Liberians	5%		
LANGUAGES			
English (official), 20 local languages of the Niger-Congo language group			

This data is drawn from CountryWatch.com, World Health Organization, and public domain data. Statistics are generally from 2005 but may be earlier if none more recent are available.

² Human Development Index (HDI) is a composite index that measures the level of well-being in 177 nations in the world. It uses factors such as poverty, literacy, life expectancy, education, gross domestic product, and purchasing power parity to assess the average achievements in each nation. It has been used in the UN's Human Development Report since 1993.