

**Attitudes & Behaviors of Youth**

**United States – African American Youth**





**Attitudes & Behaviors of Youth  
A Quantitative Study**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY FOR MINISTRY**

**United States – African American Youth**

January 2011

Prepared by:



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### 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.



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## Section I: Key Issues Analysis

### **Key Issues**

- Family composition
  - 57% indicate living in a two-parent family (includes 17% living in a two-parent household where one is a step-parent)
  - 32% indicate living with their mother or stepmother only
  - 29% indicate parents are divorced, separated, or remarried
  - 16% indicate that their parents were never married
  - 11% indicate that one parent has died
- Perception of Family
  - Definition of family
    - 48% define family as those related by birth, adoption or marriage
    - 44% define family as any person or group whom you love or care about deeply
    - 6% define family as any group of people who shares the same set of values and goals in the life
    - 2% define family as any group of people who live together
  - Function of family
    - Place for children –
      - 87% consider a single woman with children a family
      - 86% consider an unmarried man and woman with children a family
    - Relationship –
      - 54% consider an unmarried man and woman a family
      - 42% consider homosexual men a family
      - 41% consider homosexual women a family
- Relationship with parents
  - 42% spend less than 15 minutes a week talking with their father about things that really matter
  - 27% spend more than 60 minutes a week talking with their father about things that really matter
  - 14% spend less than 15 minutes a week talking with their mother about things that really matter
  - 63% spend more than 60 minutes a week talking with their mothers about things that really matter
- Safety and Security of home
  - 64% feel their home is a place where they feel safe and loved
  - 17% feel only sometimes loved in their homes
  - 7% feel each person in their family is trying to love another
  - 6% feel comfortable in their home, but would not consider their family close
  - 6% are uncomfortable and would rather be elsewhere
- Marriage
  - 92% feel that they will be happy in their marriage
  - 86% believe marriage is intended to last a life time
  - 73% approve of divorce even when children are involved
  - 56% believe marriage problems have been exaggerated
  - 49% feel the traditional family does not play a significant role in the stability of society
  - 26% report there is too much pressure to get married, would rather live together
  - 24% admire single life
  - 18% indicate that anyone who gets married should anticipate divorce

- Sexuality
  - 61% would like to be a virgin at marriage; 68% would regain their virginity if it were possible
  - 26% have had sexual intercourse (31% have engaged in sexual fondling)
  - 14% consider sex to be always acceptable and 35% sometimes acceptable
  - Most likely to learn about sex from parents, classmates/friends, textbooks, and television/movies
  - They are least likely to learn about sex from sex-related magazines
- Satisfaction with life
  - 49% are somewhat and 41% very satisfied with their lives
  - 10% are somewhat or very dissatisfied with their lives
  - Over the past three months –
    - 77% report watching MTV
    - 56% indicate they have lied to an adult
    - 55% admit having lied to their peers
    - 23% watched a pornographic movie and 16% read a pornographic magazine
    - 20% indicate that they have intentionally tried to emotionally hurt someone
    - 14% have drunk enough to be considered legally drunk
    - 9% have had suicidal thoughts
    - 6% have attempted suicide
- Influences (cited as having *a lot* or *some* influence over thoughts and actions)
  - 82% Parents (54% a lot of influence)
  - 67% Teachers (17% a lot of influence)
  - 65% Friends (19% a lot of influence)
  - 57% Christianity (30% a lot of influence)
  - 54% Bible (26% a lot of influence)
- Moral behavior
  - 52% feel bending the rules is okay
  - 49% are pragmatic indicating in several ways that moral behavior is relative and justified by whether or not it “works”
  - 48% feel lying is sometimes a necessity
  - 19% feel that breaking the law is okay if it does not hurt anyone
- Factors providing future satisfaction (cited as having *a lot* of importance)
  - 81% having good physical health
  - 68% having a comfortable lifestyle
  - 67% having a degree
  - 65% having one marriage partner for life
  - 65% having a clear purpose for living
  - 65% living with a high degree of integrity
  - 65% working a high paying job
  - 64% having close relationships
- Religious Practice
  - 72% religion is very (40%) or somewhat (32%) important to them
  - 43% report weekly or daily prayer
  - 37% participate in weekly or daily religious services; 66% indicate a likelihood of attending religious services after graduating from High School
  - 25% report weekly or daily scripture reading, including the Bible, Koran, or other religious scriptures
  - 20% participate in weekly or daily youth group

### ***Strengths & Opportunities***

- **Family, relationships, and personal life**
  - 87% consider a single woman with children a family
  - 86% consider an unmarried man and woman with children a family
  - 82% parents (54% a lot of influence) are of strong influence
  - 81% having good physical health is of great importance to future satisfaction
  - 67% teachers (17% a lot of influence) are of strong influence
  - 65% friends (19% a lot of influence) are of strong influence
  - 63% spend more than 60 minutes a week talking with their **mothers** about things that really matter
  - 64% feel their home is a place where they feel safe and loved
  - 49% are somewhat and 41% very satisfied with their lives
  - 48% define family as those related by birth, adoption or marriage
  - 44% define family as any person or group whom you love or care about deeply
- **Marriage and sexuality**
  - 92% feel that they will be happy in their marriage
  - 86% believe marriage is intended to last a life time
  - 61% would like to be a virgin at marriage; 68% would regain their virginity if it were possible
  - Most likely to learn about sex from parents
- **Religion and faith**
  - 86% believe that prayer can change what happens in life
  - 72% believe their religion to be very (40%) or somewhat (32%) important to them
  - 66% indicate a likelihood of attending religious services after graduating from High School
  - 61% are certain of the existence of Heaven and Hell
  - 53% believe that church membership is important
  - 43% report weekly or daily prayer
  - 37% participate in weekly or daily religious services

### ***Weaknesses & Threats***

- **Family, relationships, and personal life**
  - 77% report watching MTV
  - 57% indicate living in a two-parent family (includes 17% living in a two-parent household where one is a step-parent)
  - 56% indicate they have lied to an adult
  - 55% admit having lied to their peers
  - 54% consider an unmarried man and woman a family
  - 52% feel bending the rules is okay
  - 49% are pragmatic indicating in several ways that moral behavior is relative and justified by whether or not it “works”
  - 48% feel lying is sometimes a necessity
  - 42% spend less than 15 minutes a week talking with their father about things that really matter
  - 32% indicate living with their mother or stepmother only
  - 29% indicate parents are divorced, separated, or remarried
  - 23% watched a pornographic movie and 16% read a pornographic magazine
  - 20% indicate that they have intentionally tried to emotionally hurt someone
  - 16% indicate that their parents were never married

- 17% feel only sometimes loved in their homes
- 11% indicate that one parent has died
- **Marriage and sexuality**
  - 73% approve of divorce even when children are involved
  - 56% believe marriage problems have been exaggerated
  - 49% feel the traditional family does not play a significant role in the stability of society
  - 26% report there is too much pressure to get married, would rather live together
  - 26% have had sexual intercourse (31% have engaged in sexual fondling)
  - 18% indicate that anyone who gets married should anticipate divorce
  - 14% consider sex to be always acceptable and 35% sometimes acceptable
- **Religion and faith**
  - 65% believe that truth can mean different things to different people and no one can be sure that they know the truth
  - 53% believe that if a person is generally good, or does enough good things for others during their life, they will earn a place in Heaven
  - 48% believe that spiritual development is not necessary for leading a satisfying life
  - 37% participate in weekly or daily religious services
  - 26% do know what happens after death
  - 25% report weekly or daily scripture reading
  - 20% participate in weekly or daily youth group

### ***Recommendations***

#### **Promote family strengthening programs.**

Ministry Strategy:

- Provide counseling for parents to capitalize on the high trust and influence they maintain over children.
- Promote and strengthen the institution of marriage through family workshops/seminars.
- Encourage positive parental discussions with children through topical workshops/seminars.

#### **Mentor youth to combat moral relativity.**

Ministry strategy:

- Establish mentoring programs for youth led by young adults and youth to strengthen personal spiritual disciplines and more clearly define their beliefs.
- Develop cell based communities of faith for youth.
- Utilize print and electronic media to strengthen core values and beliefs



## **Section II: Project Description**

### ***Acknowledgments***

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

The Attitudes & Behaviors of Youth (ABY) instrument administered in this study was made available by Josh McDowell Ministries. This survey was developed for global application. As such, query areas are not specialized for the United States.

### ***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.

The Attitudes and Behaviors of the Youth (ABY) project will capture the following information about children in the United States:

- 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

### ***Research Methodology***

The Attitudes and Behavior of the Youth project utilizes the ABY survey, which is a stratified random survey of secondary school aged children. The survey was stratified by degree of urbanization, geographic region, ethnicity, and gender for the United States. Additional strata that permit analysis are: family composition, 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 online in English. Surveys were administered online through panels and social networking sites segregated by zip-code, ethnicity, population density, and by gender all proportional to the national ratio.

### ***Project Overview***

The time frame for data collection was August through October 2010. Drs. Rene Paulson and Jacquelyn Pennings jointly served as the local Research Coordinator for the United States research project. Oversight was provided by Dr. Allen Reesor and Mindy Chandler of Pompano Beach, Florida. The research followed project design instructions (see below under Logistics and Data Collection).

Data was entered online into a web-based database, which is hosted by Philip Issa of Elite Research. The final report includes the Metadigm Group's analysis of the data, which has been reviewed by Rene Paulson, PhD. Secondary data is provided where 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.

## **Logistics**

### Randomization

Reliability of the survey results depends upon consistent randomization of the participants. Strata of randomization that govern participant selection employed in this project were ethnicity, geographic location, gender, and population density distributions.

Population density was interpreted as urban, semi-urban, or rural. Based on each participant's zipcode, population density and Rural-Urban Commuting Area Codes (RUCA) were assigned based on 2000 Census commuting data and 2004 ZIP codes. The RUCA codes take into account the proximity of each zipcode to a major urban area. The RUCA system classifies sub-county areas on a scale representing urbanization, population density, and daily commuting. RUCAs are a Census tract-based classification scheme that utilizes the standard Bureau of Census urban area and place definitions in combination with commuting information to characterize all of the nation's census tracts regarding their rural and urban status.

### Validation

Several measures were taken to check the validity of the data. The panelist company was TrueSample™<sup>1</sup> certified, a technological solution that ensures data quality by verifying that each survey respondent is:

- Who and where they say they are.
- Not allowed to enter a survey twice.
- Honest and thoughtful in their responses.

In addition, the survey included several questions which were used to validate the data<sup>2</sup>.

### Quality Control

The survey data is kept confidential and is housed by Elite Research.

## **Implementation & Survey Administration**

### Data Collection

Data collection for the ABY project in the United States included the following steps as detailed below:

- 1) Determination of the demographic breakdown of teenagers (ages 13-18) in the United States. The demographic variables of interest were gender, age, ethnicity, and population density. Additionally, data was collected from each geographic region of the country, based on the four census regions (northeast, midwest, south, west).
- 2) From the demographic breakdown of each region, the number of participants from each region that were needed to represent each of the demographics was decided upon. Data was stratified based on the following:
  - a. Gender (male vs. female)
  - b. Age (13-14 vs. 15-16 vs. 17-18)
  - c. Ethnicity (major groupings: Caucasian vs. Hispanic vs. African-American vs. Asian)
  - d. Population Density (Urban vs. Suburban vs. Rural)

<sup>1</sup> TrueSample brings the same real-time technologies that help prevent credit card fraud and identity theft to the world of online research, enabling researchers to eliminate duplicate, fraudulent, or unengaged respondents from panel databases to ensure that the panel participants are who they represent themselves to be (age, gender, etc).

<sup>2</sup> For example, an item asking participants how many years they had been driving was included in survey, which can then be checked against the age item to identify participants that are likely being untruthful.

- 3) Two forms of participant recruitment<sup>3</sup> were used:
- a. The first was to purchase a list of panel participants from a reputable panelist company. Panel participants were between 13 and 18 years of age and had parental permission to participate in online surveys.
  - b. The second was to recruit participants from social networking websites such as Facebook, Twitter, etc. For this recruitment, incentives were determined (examples included drawings for gift cards, ipods, etc.) and announcements created that included the survey web-link and incentive information, which was posted online.

Participation was voluntary and a brief online introduction was provided to those participating in the survey.

When data collection was completed, the ethnic and regional breakdown was as follows (all other breakdowns are included in the data report):

<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>%</b>
African American/Black	17.8
American Indian/Alaska Native	2.1
Arab Americans	0.2
Asian	4.3
Caucasian/White	69.0
Hispanic/Latino/Spanish	14.4
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	0.7
West Indian Americans	0.2
<b>Region</b>	<b>%</b>
Northeast	22.1
Midwest	24.6
South	28.3
West	24.9

This report covers the African American youth population only.

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<sup>3</sup> Both methods of surveying encouraged snowballing, which allowed participants to invite other eligible teens to complete the survey.

### **Section III: Profile of African American Youth in United States**

#### ***Data Qualifications***

The overall sample of 5,108 participants was drawn from online participants in the United States, and will tend to reflect the reality of youth who are most likely to participate in online surveys; however, since most youth are active on line the sample pool represents a significant proportion of the population by region and ethnicity. The sample was controlled for region and ethnic origin to reflect proportional distribution of the population in the USA .

This report is an analysis of the 911 surveys from African American participants who comprised 17.8% of the overall USA sample. In this sample, by gender 59% are female and 41% are male participants and by age, 38% of the participants are between the ages of 13-15 years and 62% between 16-18 years with 27% being 18 years old. Due to this distribution within the sample, the overall descriptions will skew slightly toward the attitudes of female and older participants.

#### ***Demographics***

Participants in high school (9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades) comprise 65% of the sample, 15% are in Junior High School (6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grades) and 13% in College/University; 7% indicate that they are not in school. Female participants in this sample are 9% more likely than their male counterparts to be in College/University. Of those participants aged 16-18, 11% indicate that they are not in school. Self reported performance in school shows that 41% of participants are doing *good* in school, 29% *excellent*, and 25% *average*.

About half of the participants report that their fathers and mothers (49% and 45% respectively) are *other* employed, which may indicate self-employment, unemployment or that they work from home. Mothers are reported as professionals by 22% of participants and fathers as professional by 14%. Fifteen percent of participants report their fathers are *industrial* workers. Parents are less likely to be employed in either in the *service industry* (12% fathers and 15% mothers) or the public sector (10% fathers and 11% mothers).

While 43% of participants' parents are married, 23% indicate that their parents are either divorced or separated, 16% report that their parents never married, and 11% state that one parent is deceased. Female participants are slightly more likely than male participants to indicate that their parents never married and younger participants are more likely than older participants to report they have married parents.

Forty percent of participants indicate living with their natural parents and another 17% live in a two-parent home where one is a step-parent. Female-headed households account for 32% of participants who live with their mother or stepmother only, the female participants are more likely than male participants to indicate that this is the case.

#### ***Family Relationships***

Although two thirds of participants feel safe and loved in their homes, 17% indicate that it is a place where they only sometimes feel loved and 6% that they would rather live somewhere other than home. Male participants are more likely than female participants to feel that they are only sometimes loved in their homes. Again about two thirds feel the adults in their homes express interest in them, set good examples, and spend time with them. However, about half feel that sometimes they are not trusted or that more than is fair is expected of them. Male participants are more likely to state that the adults in their family admit when they are wrong or mistaken, whereas female participants are more likely to report that adults in their family demonstrate real love for each other. Younger participants are more likely than older participants to report that the adults in their

family are too strict, admit when they are wrong or mistaken, and do not allow them to do the things they want to do.

Overall, participants are more likely to regard their relationship with their mother as very close or close than that with their father (86% and 63% respectively). While 10% of participants report that they do not know their father or that he has died, another 27% feel the relationship with him is either not at all close or not too close and female participants are slightly more likely than male participants to indicate not being close at all with their fathers. Older participants are more likely than their younger counterparts to not be very close with their fathers or not know their father at all; younger participants are more likely (by 13%) to indicate a very close parental relationship.

These feelings are paralleled by the data showing that 42% of participants spend less than 15 minutes a week in meaningful conversation with their fathers (14% spend the same amount with their mothers) while 63% spend an hour or more in conversation with mothers and only 27% spend this much time with their fathers. Male and older participants tend to spend more time talking with their fathers than female and younger participants who are more likely to spend time in meaningful conversation with their mother.

It is probable that these differences also are reflected in participants report as they are likely to feel proud of their parents, feel their parents show that they love them and show their love for their parents, they are about 30% more likely to report that these feeling are true of their mothers than their fathers. Male participants are more likely than their female participants to seek advice from their fathers, spend one-on-one time with their fathers, and to talk about their personal concerns with their fathers and female participants are more likely to be close to their mothers in all areas than male participants. Younger participants are more likely than older participants to report close relationships with both their parents.

### ***Attitudes toward Family and Relationships with the Opposite Sex***

While participants are almost equally likely to define family as people “related by birth, adoption, or marriage” or “those whom you love or care about deeply,” 87% also consider an unmarried woman with children or an unmarried couple with children and 54% an unmarried couple living together to be family. Homosexual couples are defined as family by 40% of participants. Female participants are somewhat more likely than male participants both to define family as people who “love or care” and to consider homosexual couples as family, while male participants are more likely to define family as people who are “related” and to consider a cohabiting heterosexual couple without children as family.

When they have their own families, 92% believe that they will be very happy in their own marriages and 86% that God intended marriage to last a lifetime; however, 18% anticipate divorce after marriage and 73% condone divorce when a couple do not love each other even if there are children in the family. Overall, their family experience has been positive for 85% of participants and 53% would like a marriage like that of their parents’. Two-thirds of participants would like to remain a virgin until marriage and as many would regain their virginity if it were possible. One-quarter of participants admire single life and would rather live together than get married.

Female participants are far more likely than male participants to value virginity and slightly more likely to believe that marriage problems are exaggerated and expect that they will be happy in their own marriages. Male participants, on the other hand, are somewhat more likely to believe that marriage is intended to last a lifetime and to condemn divorce. Younger participants are somewhat more likely than older participants to believe that marriage is intended to last a lifetime, that marriage problems are exaggerated, and to want to regain their virginity; older participants, however, are somewhat more likely to prefer cohabitation to marriage.

Participants indicate that they learned mostly about sex from parents and friends; although male and older participants are more likely than female and younger participants to learn about sex from sex-related magazines and books. Overall, sex-related magazines and books are the least likely sources of information about sex.

When asked what was appropriate for two people in love when there was no coercion, 16% of participants find sexual intercourse and fondling always acceptable and 34% consider these sometimes acceptable. If presented with an opportunity to engage in sexual intercourse, the most likely reasons to do so would be the intention to marry and being in love with peer pressure being the least likely reason. Male and older participants are more likely than their female and younger counterparts to have sex for all listed reasons. However for being in love and certainty that a pregnancy would not result are strongest reasons.

When asked about their own sexual history, one quarter of participants indicate that they have had sexual intercourse, and about one third report they have fondled breasts or genitals. Male participants are slightly more likely than female participants to report all activities, except for kissing and older participants are far more likely than younger participants to report having engaged in all activities.

### ***Daily Activities and Attitudes***

Generally participants are satisfied with their lives, 49% are somewhat satisfied and 41% are very satisfied. However, 10% of participants are either not at all or not too satisfied with life and overall 9% have had suicidal thoughts in the past three months with 6% attempting suicide during the same time period.

When asked to identify factors that are important in having future satisfaction in life, participants were most likely to cite good physical health followed by other factors in order of importance: having a comfortable lifestyle, having a clear life purpose, having a degree, having one marriage partner for life, working a high-paying job, living with a high degree of integrity and having close friendships. Female participants are more likely than male participants to place importance on having a clear purpose for living, one marriage partner for life, living with a high degree of integrity, earning a degree, and having children. Male participants, on the other hand, place more importance on achieving fame or public recognition. Younger participants are more likely than older participants to desire living close to family and achieving fame or recognition, while older participants are more likely to place importance on having children.

Electronic media (MP3, cell phone, laptop computer), followed by blogging are the most appealing media for participants. Female participants are more likely than male participants to read fashion magazines and older participants more likely to blog than younger participants. Participants are likely to spend their free time watching TV, listening to music (77% watch MTV on a weekly basis) browsing the web; watching TV uses more than 8 hours a week for 36% of the participants, music more than 8 hours for 28% and internet more than 8 hours for 18%. Reading religious Scriptures is the least likely free time pursuit with less than one third committing one hour or more a week. Females are more likely than males to spend their free time reading a book. Younger participants are more likely to spend their free time reading a book and studying for school than are older participants, who are more likely to SMS/chat in their free time.

Participants indicate that their parents have the highest influence in their lives, significantly higher than even teachers and friends which are the next most influential. The least influential are non-Christian religions and political leaders. Male participants are more likely than female participants to indicate that community religious leaders, textbooks, indigenous faith, and national political leaders have influence over their thoughts and actions. Younger participants are more likely than older participants to report community religious leaders as having influence in their lives.

Sixty-five percent believe that truth can mean different things to different people, and about half that people may define truth in contradictory ways and still be correct. About half also think morality is defined by what works in your life and that rule-breaking and lying are necessary. Younger participants are more likely than older participants to accept the need for spirituality but are more accepting of pluralism while older participants are more pragmatic than younger participants in their moral development

When asked about their behavior over the past three months, just over half report having lied to a parent, another adult, their friends or peers. About one-fifth of participants have watched pornography or tried to emotionally hurt someone and about 15% have read pornography, been intoxicated or cheated on an exam. Around 10% have stolen, gambled, used tobacco or attempted to physically harm someone. Female participants are somewhat more likely than male participants to lie to their friends, while male participants are more likely to read a pornographic magazine, gamble, and somewhat more likely to watch pornography. Younger participants are somewhat more likely than older participants to lie to an adult, while older participants are much more likely to watch pornography, get drunk, and more likely to use tobacco, read pornography, gamble, have suicidal thoughts, or use illegal drugs.

### ***Religious Beliefs and Practices***

Seven out of ten African American participants are Protestant, 11% have no religious faith, and 10% practice personal faith. Female participants are more likely than male participants to be Protestant, while male participants are more likely to claim no religious affiliation. Younger participants are more likely than older participants to claim Protestant as their religious affiliation, whereas older participants are more likely to practice their own personal faith. Seventy-two percent of participants report that their religion is very (40%) or somewhat (32%) important to them. Younger participants are more likely to place importance on their religion than are older participants.

Thirty-six percent of participants report weekly attendance at religious services, with family members (except fathers who are 7% less likely to attend weekly) attendance being similar. Younger participants are more likely than their older counterparts to report higher attendance rates for themselves and their families. Participants report that 36% are somewhat likely and 30% very likely to attend religious services on a regular basis after graduating from high school.

Prayer is the most frequent religious activity, with 33% engaging in daily prayer. Scripture reading is reported as a daily activity for 9% and weekly for another 16%; however, 26% rarely or never pray and 51% rarely or never read scriptures. About 20% attend a religious youth group and of those attending youth groups, 30% attend those small than 40 member and 20% more than 40% members. Female participants are more likely than male participants to be involved with a religious scripture study group or training class and younger participants are more likely than their older counterparts to engage in prayer, youth group, and scripture reading.

Heaven and Hell are believed to be real places by 61% and 48% believe that human souls live eternally. After death, 42% of participants believe they will go to heaven if they have confessed Jesus Christ as Savior but 26% are unsure of what happens after death; another 7% believe you go to heaven by following religious rites and being a good person, and another 7% believe that people cease to exist after death.

**Section IV: United States Secondary Data**

**Secondary Research Profile  
United States**



DEMOGRAPHICS & POPULATION	
Est. Population	309,473,626
Population (under 15 yrs)	20.4%
Life Expectancy	69.3 yrs
Birth Rate (per 1,000 people)	14
Infant Mortality (per 1,000 live births)	6.3
Estimated Urban / Rural Population	244,525,461 / 58,262,060
Largest City / Population	New York/8.459.026
EDUCATION & LITERACY	
Literacy Rate (over 15 yrs)	99%
Primary Enrollment ratio	94%
Literacy Rate – Males	99%
Literacy Rate – Females	99%
ECONOMICS	
GDP (purchasing power parity) per capita	\$45,759.46
GDP (official exchange rate) per capita	\$45,958.70
Poverty Rate (% below poverty line)	12%

SOCIAL			
Human Development Index <sup>4</sup> (out of 182)	10	Prisoners (per capita) 100,000	715
Divorce Rate (per 1,000 people)	4.95	Adult prevalence rate 15-49 HIV AIDS	0.6%
Unemployment Rate	4.6%	Children Orphaned due to all causes (0-17yrs) 2007, estimate (thousands)	2800
Youth Unemployment Rate	9.3%	Teen Pregnancy (per capita) 1 million	1,671.63
Executions (per capita) 1 million	0.229936	Women Contraceptive prevalence %	76%
Murders (per capita) 1 thousand	0.042802		
Burglaries (per capita) 1 thousand	7.09996		

**LANGUAGES**

Hundreds of languages are spoken in the United States. English and Spanish are the major spoken languages in the United States today: Hawaiian is spoken in Hawaii; Cajun is spoken in Louisiana; Creole dialects are spoken in the southern States. In addition, there are several indigenous languages spoken throughout the United States rooted in the native history of the land. Other spoken languages are derived from immigrant populations such as Spanish, German, Italian and Chinese. Bilingualism is commonplace.

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.



ETHNIC GROUPS & RELIGIONS			
European descent	79.9%	Protestant	56%
African descent	12.85%	Roman Catholic	28%
Asian descent	4.43%	None	10%
Amerindian and Alaska native	0.97%	Other	4%
Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander	0.18%	Jewish	2%
Two or more races	1.61%		
<p><i>note:</i> a separate listing for Hispanic is not included because the US Census Bureau considers Hispanic to mean persons of Spanish/Hispanic/Latino origin including those of Mexican, Cuban, Puerto Rican, Dominican Republic, Spanish, and Central or South American origin living in the US who may be of any race or ethnic group (white, black, Asian, etc.); about 15.1% of the total US population is <b>Hispanic</b></p>			

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<sup>4</sup> 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.