

Spiritual State of the World's Children

United States





Spiritual State of the World's Children A Quantitative Study

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY FOR MINISTRY

United States

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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
 - 63% indicate living in a two-parent family (includes 12% living in a two-parent household where one is a step-parent)
 - 22% indicate parents are divorced, separated, or remarried
 - 17% indicate living with their mother or stepmother only
 - 8% indicate that their parents were never married
 - 4% indicate that one parent has died
- Perception of Family
 - Definition of family
 - 49% 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
 - 4% define family as any group of people who shares the same set of values and goals in the life
 - 3% define family as any group of people who live together
 - Function of family
 - Place for children –
 - 88% consider a single woman with children a family
 - 84% consider an unmarried man and woman with children a family
 - Relationship –
 - 50% consider an unmarried man and woman a family
 - 41% consider homosexual women a family
 - 41% consider homosexual men a family
- Relationship with parents
 - 34% spend less than 15 minutes a week talking with their father about things that really matter
 - 37% spend more than 60 minutes a week talking with their father about things that really matter
 - 13% spend less than 15 minutes a week talking with their mother about things that really matter
 - 65% spend more than 60 minutes a week talking with their mothers about things that really matter
- Safety and Security of home
 - 66% feel their home is a place where they feel safe and loved
 - 13% feel only sometimes loved in their homes
 - 10% feel each person in their family is trying to love another
 - 6% feel comfortable in their home, but would not consider their family close
 - 5% are uncomfortable and would rather be elsewhere
- Marriage
 - 92% feel that they will be happy in their marriage
 - 82% believe God intended marriage to last a life time
 - 76% approve of divorce even when children are involved
 - 55% believe marriage problems have been exaggerated
 - 46% feel the traditional family does not play a significant role in the stability of society
 - 29% report there is too much pressure to get married and would rather live together
 - 23% admire single life
 - 17% indicate that anyone who gets married should anticipate divorce

- Sexuality
 - 61% would like to be a virgin at marriage; 63% would regain their virginity if it were possible
 - 21% have had sexual intercourse (30% have engaged in sexual fondling)
 - 16% consider sex to be always acceptable and 34% sometimes acceptable
 - Most likely to learn about sex from parents, classmates/friends, textbooks, and television/movies
 - Least likely to learn about sex from the internet and 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 –
 - 69% report watching MTV at least once a week
 - 50% admit having lied to their peers
 - 51% indicate they have lied to an adult
 - 17% indicate that they have intentionally tried to emotionally hurt someone
 - 16% watched a pornographic movie and 13% read a pornographic magazine
 - 14% have drunk enough to be considered legally drunk
 - 10% have had suicidal thoughts
 - 5% have attempted suicide
- Influences (cited as having *a lot* or *some* influence over thoughts and actions)
 - 80% Parents (49% a lot of influence)
 - 69% Friends (22% a lot of influence)
 - 62% Teachers (18% a lot of influence)
 - 47% Siblings (14% a lot of influence)
 - 47% Christianity (26% a lot of influence)
 - 41% Bible (20% a lot of influence)
 - 36% Music (8% a lot of influence)
 - 33% Television (6% a lot of influence)
- Moral behavior
 - 48% are pragmatic indicating in several ways that moral behavior is relative and justified by whether or not it “works”
 - 47% feel bending the rules is okay
 - 45% 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)
 - 78% having good physical health
 - 64% having close relationships
 - 64% having one marriage partner for life
 - 62% having a clear purpose for living
 - 62% living with a high degree of integrity
 - 61% having a comfortable lifestyle
 - 59% having a degree
 - 59% working a high paying job
- Religious Practice
 - 64% religion is somewhat (31%) or very (33%) important to them
 - 39% report weekly or daily prayer
 - 32% participate in weekly or daily religious services

- 20% participate in weekly or daily youth group
- 20% report weekly or daily scripture reading, including the Bible, Koran, or other religious scriptures
- Christian Theology
 - 91% believe that Jesus Christ was a real person
 - 89% have heard about Jesus and the Bible from family or relatives, 82% from Church, and 71% from friends
 - 84% believe that Jesus was born to a virgin
 - 72% believe that God created the universe
 - 65% believe that truth can mean different things to different people and no one can be sure that they know the truth
 - 59% believe the Bible is accurate in all of its teachings (75% believe that the miracles in the Bible took place)
 - 57% 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
 - 57% believe that people who do not accept Jesus Christ as their savior can still go to heaven
 - 54% believe the Bible provides a clear and indisputable description of moral truth (46% believe this truth is the same for all people)
 - 52% believe that spiritual development is not necessary for leading a satisfying life
 - 46% believe that church membership is important

Strengths & Opportunities

- Family, relationships, and personal life
 - Influenced most by 80% **parents** (49% a lot of influence), 69% **friends** (22% a lot of influence), and 62% **teachers** (18% a lot of influence)
 - 78% desire good physical health
 - 66% feel their home is a place where they feel safe and loved
 - 65% spend more than 60 minutes a week talking with their **mothers** about things that really matter
 - 64% desire close relationships
 - 63% indicate living in a two-parent family (includes 12% living in a two-parent household where one is a step-parent)
 - 62% desire a clear purpose for living
 - 49% 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
 - 41% of respondents indicate they are very satisfied and 49% somewhat satisfied with their lives
- Marriage and sexuality
 - 82% believe God intended marriage to last a life time
 - 61% would like to be a virgin at marriage; 63% would regain their virginity if it were possible
 - Most likely to learn about sex from parents
 - 64% desire one marriage partner for life
- Religion and faith
 - 91% Jesus Christ was a real person
 - 89% have heard about Jesus and the Bible from family or relatives, 82% from Church, and 71% from friends
 - 82% believe that prayer can change what happens in life
 - 80% believe in a final judgment

- 72% believe that God created the universe
- 68% are certain of God’s existence
- 64% find religion somewhat (31%) or very (33%) important to them
- 43% believe that confession of Jesus Christ as Savior is necessary to gain access to Heaven

Weaknesses & Threats

- Family, relationships, and personal life
 - 84% consider an unmarried man and woman with children a family
 - 69% report watching MTV at least once a week
 - 51% indicate they have lied to an adult
 - 50% consider an unmarried man and woman a family
 - 50% admit having lied to their peers
 - 47% feel bending the rules is okay
 - 46% feel the traditional family does not play a significant role in the stability of society
 - 45% feel lying is sometimes a necessity
 - 41% consider homosexual women a family
 - 41% consider homosexual men a family
 - 37% spend more than 60 minutes a week talking with their father about things that really matter
 - 22% indicate parents are divorced, separated, or remarried
 - 13% feel only sometimes loved in their homes
 - 10% feel each person in their family is trying to love another
 - 10% have had suicidal thoughts
 - 8% indicate that their parents were never married
- Marriage and sexuality
 - 76% approve of divorce even when children are involved
 - 55% believe marriage problems have been exaggerated
 - 29% report there is too much pressure to get married, would rather live together
 - 23% admire single life
 - 21% have had sexual intercourse (30% have engaged in sexual fondling)
 - 16% consider sex to be always acceptable and 34% sometimes acceptable
- Religion and faith
 - 69% believe that religious practices other than Christianity are helpful
 - 65% believe that truth can mean different things to different people and no one can be sure that they know the truth
 - 59% believe the Bible is accurate in all of its teachings (75% believe that the miracles in the Bible took place)
 - 57% 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
 - 57% believe that people who do not accept Jesus Christ as their savior can still go to heaven
 - 54% believe the Bible provides a clear and indisputable description of moral truth (46% believe this truth is the same for all people)
 - 53% believe that all major religions pray to the same God (but just use a different name)
 - 52% believe that spiritual development is not necessary for leading a satisfying life
 - 50% feel responsible to share their faith
 - 48% are pragmatic indicating in several ways that moral behavior is relative and justified by whether or not it “works”

- 46% believe that church membership is important
- 45% are not too or not at all likely to attend religious services after high school
- 39% report weekly or daily prayer
- 36% are uncertain of the status of the human soul after death
- 32% participate in weekly or daily religious services
- 30% are uncertain of Heaven and Hell and 26% do not know what happens after death
- 20% participate in weekly or daily youth group
- 20% report weekly or daily scripture reading, including the Bible, Koran, or other religious scriptures
- 19% do not know what they believe about God
- 12% believe that being a good person and 10% following religious rites will get you access to Heaven

Recommendations

Promote family strengthening programs.

Ministry Strategy:

- Provide counseling for parents to capitalize on the high trust and influence they maintain over children.
- Strengthen the institution of marriage through family workshops/seminars.

Help bridge the cultural gap which exists in most churches and families.

Ministry Strategy:

- Establish recreational groups as a way of reaching youth.
- Establish youth groups outside of the church building and encourage church leaders to accept these as legitimate.
- Establish seminars that would help the churches to transition to a new vision and ministry for youth.
- Establish churches started by youth leaders.
- Establish cross-generational service projects.

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 spiritual truths.
- 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.

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 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
- 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 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 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 zip code, 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 zip code 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™¹ 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 data².

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)

¹ 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).

² 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 recruitment³ 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):

Ethnicity⁴	%
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
Region	%
Northeast	22.1
Midwest	24.6
South	28.3
West	24.9

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

⁴ Percentages will not sum to 100% as participants could check all ethnicities that applied.

Section III: Profiles of Youth in United States

Data Qualifications

The sample was drawn from online participants in the United States, so it will somewhat reflect the reality of youth who participate in online surveys; however, this is a significant proportion of the population, and regional and ethnic representation was controlled. In this sample of 5,108, the participants are 43% male and 57% female. Due to the disproportionate distribution of the sample, the overall descriptions will tend slightly toward the attitudes of female participants. Regarding population density breakdown, 46% are urban, 47% are semi-urban, and 7% are rural.

Demographics

Of the participants, 42% is 13 -15 years of age, and 58% is 16 -18 years of age. Overall 7% are not in school (all of these are over the age of 16), 11% are attending university, 29% are in grades 7-9, and 52% are in grades 10-12. The percentage of participants in the sample attending university trends higher with the increase in population density. Of those attending school, 25% report *poor* to *average* school grades, 42% report *good* grades, and 33% report *excellent* grades. Female participants are significantly more likely to report excellent grades when compared to male participants.

Participants report that their parents are most likely to have *other* types of employment, fathers 40% and mothers 46%, which may mean that parents work from home, are self employed or unemployed. *Professional* employment is the second most likely category of employment for parents with 22% for fathers and 25% for mothers. Fifteen percent of participants list their father's profession as *industrial* and the *service industry* is reported for 13% of fathers and 16% of mothers. For fathers, semi-urban and urban participants are slightly more likely than rural participants to report their father's profession as *professional* and rural participants that their father's profession is *industrial* or *agriculture*. For mothers, rural participants are slightly more likely than semi-urban and urban participants to indicate their mother's profession as *other*. Urban participants are slightly more likely than rural participants to indicate their mothers are *professional*, and semi-urban participants are slightly more likely than rural participants to indicate their mother's profession is in the *public sector*.

Sixty-five percent of participants report that their parents are married, 16% that their parents are divorced or separated, 8% that their parents have never been married, and 6% that they are divorced and remarried. Overall, 63% of participants report that they live with their natural mother and father, 17% live with their mother or step-mother only, and 12% of participants report living with two parents, one of which is a step parent.

Family Relationships

Only 5% of participants feel their home is place they would rather not live, 66% feel that they are safe and loved, 13% feel loved at times and at other times do not, and 10% feel their home is a place where everyone is trying to love each other. Rural and younger participants are somewhat more likely than urban and older participants to indicate their home is a place where they feel safe and loved.

Participants are most likely to identify the adults in their home as being interested in who they are, spending time with them, and setting a good example. Adults in the home are also very likely to demonstrate love for each other and admit when they are wrong. To a lesser degree but consistently about half of the participants feel that adults do not allow them to do what they want, are too strict, and expect more than is fair. Urban and semi-urban participants are slightly more likely than rural participants to report their parents shout at them.

Overall 37% of participants spend more than 1 hour a week talking to their fathers about things that really matter to them, while 34% spend 15 minutes or less. Participants are far more likely to talk with their mothers, with 65% talking for an hour or more and only 13% spending 15 minutes or less talking about things that really matter. However, 42% of participants describe their relationship with their father and 66% with their mother as very close, a third of the participants indicate they are fairly close with their father, and a quarter reports being close with their mother. Male participants are more likely than female participants to describe their relationship with fathers as close and state that they are very close (by 5%) to their father. Rural participants are somewhat more likely than urban and semi-urban participants to indicate a fairly close relationship with their father, while urban and semi-urban participants are more likely to report a very close relationship with their father.

About half of the participants are frequently proud of their father, and 60% are frequently proud of their mother while about 20% are not proud of their fathers and 10% are not proud of their mothers. Male participants are more likely than female participants to talk to their father about personal concerns and do something special with their father that involves just the two of them. On the other hand, female participants are more likely than male participants to talk to their mother about personal matters, seek their advice, do something special with their mother that involves just them, and show love for their mother. Younger participants are more likely than older participants to report doing something special that involves just the two of them with both parents and to report showing love for both parents.

Attitudes toward Family and Relationships with the Opposite Sex

Ninety-two percent of participants believe they will be very happy in their own marriages, and over 80% indicate their family experience has been positive. About 80% do not believe people should expect their marriage to end in divorce and that God intended for marriage to last a lifetime; yet 76% of participants condone divorce if the couple no longer loves each other even when there are children are involved. Generally female participants are more likely than male participants to value virginity, to be open to the idea of divorce, to desire a marriage like their parents, and to be optimistic about their own marriage if not the role of family. Older participants are slightly more likely than younger participants to believe it is hard to have a successful marriage these days, and younger participants are more likely than older participants to think they should wait until marriage for sex and to want a marriage like their parents.

Forty-nine percent of participants define family as people related by birth, adoption, or marriage, and 44% define family as any person or group you love or care about deeply. This is reflected in participants' response to what constitutes a family: about half think that an unmarried couple with no children is a family, over 40% consider homosexual couples who live together as family, and about 85% indicate that an unmarried woman and her children or an unmarried couple and children are families. Female participants are about 10% more likely than male participants to consider male homosexual or female homosexual couples who live together as family. Urban participants are more likely than rural participants to consider an unmarried couple without children and both male and female homosexual couples who live together as a family.

Participants are most likely to learn about sex most from parents, classmates/friends, textbooks and TV/Movies; the internet and sex-related magazines and books are the least reported sources. Findings suggest that more of the male and older participants than female and younger participants have learned about sex on the internet and through sex-related magazines and books.

When asked what might prompt them to engage in sexual intercourse if given the opportunity, participants are most likely to indicate that they would if they intended to marry the person, were in love, or had no fear of pregnancy. When asked what is acceptable for two people who are in love when there is no coercion to participate, 50% of participants feel it is sometimes or always acceptable to engage in fondling, heavy petting and sexual intercourse. Nearly all participants indicate that holding hands, embracing and kissing is acceptable in this situation. When asked about their own sexual experience, 21% of participants report that they have had sexual intercourse, 42% engaged in heavy kissing, and over 25% engaged in sexual fondling. Urban and older participants are more likely than rural and younger participants to engage in foreplay and sexual activities. Rural, younger, and female participants hold slightly more conservative views than male, older, and urban participants on the propriety of premarital sexual activities.

Daily Activities and Attitudes

Participants tend to be satisfied with their lives, 41% are very satisfied, 49% somewhat satisfied, and 10% either not at all or not too satisfied with life. Younger participants are more likely than older participants to be satisfied with their life. About 10% have had suicidal thoughts in the past three months, and about 5% have attempted to commit suicide during the same time period. When asked to identify factors that are important in having satisfaction in life, participants were most likely to rank factors as follows: good physical health, close relationships, one marriage partner for life, a clear purpose for living, living with high integrity, and living with a comfortable lifestyle. Female participants are more likely than male participants to desire good physical health, having children, and obtaining a degree, while younger participants are more likely than older participants to want to be active in a church, have a close relationship with God, live close to family and achieve fame and public recognition.

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 rank all media as appealing. Urban participants are more likely than rural participants to like Hip Hop, while both urban and semi-urban participants are more likely than rural participants to read fashion magazines. Participants are most likely to spend their free time watching TV and listening to music (about 70% watch MTV on a weekly basis); each of these activities take up more than 8 hours a week for one third and between 4 and 8 hours for another third, studying, looking for information on the web and chatting on the internet. About half spend more than four hours a week studying, and about the same percentage spend more than four hours on the internet or computer. Male participants are more likely than female participants to spend their free time watching TV, and female participants are more likely than male participants to spend their free time reading a book. Semi-urban participants are more likely than rural participants to report listening to music and chatting on the internet or SMS. Urban and semi-urban participants are more likely than rural participants to report studying, and urban participants are more likely than rural participants to report sleeping while on break. Older participants are more likely than younger participants to report free time looking for information on the web and chatting on the internet or SMS.

Participants indicate that their parents have the highest influence in their lives, significantly higher than even than friends and teachers which are next in degree of influence. Christianity and siblings are somewhat more influential than the media (TV, music, movies, internet) with textbooks and religious leaders following. The least influential are other religions and political leaders. Semi-urban participants are more likely than rural participants to be influenced by friends. Rural participants are generally more likely than urban and semi-urban participants to be influenced by Christian faith and religious leaders, and younger participants are more likely than older participants to report being more influenced by their teachers.

Although 61% of participants feel that their faith is very important and about half indicate that it influences their lives, about 60% also agree that truth is relative and no one can be positive that they know what is true. More than three quarters of the participants do not support statements that are negative about the Bible's applicability; however, only half believe that the Bible provides absolute moral truths that apply to all people and slightly fewer agree that the Bible provides moral guidance in all situations. While over 80% do not agree that you can break the law even if no one is hurt, about half think that you know something is moral if it works in your life and that you may need to lie or to bend the rules to get by. Rural participants are somewhat more likely than semi-urban or urban participants to feel that religion and the Bible are important; urban and semi-urban participants are more likely to agree that scriptures, spiritual development, and moral absolutes are unimportant. While younger participants are more likely to value faith influence and believe that God is at work in their lives, older participants are more likely to indicate that breaking rules or lying are acceptable.

When asked about their behavior over the past three months, about half report having lied to a parent, another adult, or their friends or peers. About 15% have attempted to hurt someone emotionally, watched or read pornography, smoked cigarettes, or drank enough alcohol to become drunk. About 10% have cheated on an exam, gambled, attempted to physically hurt someone, stolen, or used illegal drugs. Female participants are slightly more likely than male participants to have lied to their friends or peers; whereas male participants are more likely than female participants to have gambled, watched an x-rated movie, or read a pornographic magazine. Older participants are slightly more likely than younger participants to report having used an illegal drug or gambled, and significantly more likely to have read a pornographic magazine, smoked a tobacco product, watched an x-rated movie, and been drunk.

Religious Beliefs and Practices

Overall, participants' religious affiliation is: 53% Protestant, 20% Roman Catholic, 10% practice personal faith, and 10% have no religion. Female and younger participants are slightly more likely than male and older participants to be Protestant. Urban and semi-urban participants are more likely than rural participants to be Roman Catholic, and rural participants are significantly more likely than urban and semi-urban to be Protestant. About one third of the participants indicate that their religion is either very (33%) or somewhat (31%) important to them; 20% indicate that it is not at all important, and 15% report that it is not too important. Younger participants are more likely than older participants to indicate that religion is important to them.

Only 1% of participants indicate that they attend religious services daily; however, 31% attend weekly, and 68% attend less frequently or not at all. Other family members attend religious services at about the same rate, although fathers are somewhat less likely to attend religious services than mothers. Younger participants are more likely than older participants to indicate that they and their siblings regularly attend religious services. Participants are more likely to report that they pray than other religious practices, followed by reading scriptures. However, only 40% pray at least monthly, and only 25% read scriptures monthly or more often. Female and younger participants are more likely than male and older participants to pray.

Participants indicate that 46% of them are unlikely to attend religious services after leaving home; however, 30% of participants are somewhat likely to continue to attend, and 25% are very likely to attend religious services after leaving high school or home. Younger participants are more likely than older participants to believe they will continue to attend religious services.

About 20% of participants attend a religious youth group that meets weekly; rural and younger participants are more likely than urban, semi-urban, and older participants to attend a religious youth group. Of those attending a youth group about one third attend a group smaller than ten members, another third between 10 and 19, 25% between 20 to 39, and 12% more than 40. Rural participants are more likely to attend groups smaller than 10.

Participants are most likely to have learned about the Bible or Jesus from their family or churches although some have learned from western literature and friends. When asked about the existence of God, 68% are certain of God's existence, 23% are uncertain, and 9% do not believe God exists. Overall, 55% of participants consider God to be omnipotent, omniscient, Creator who rules the world today, 26% do not know what they believe or think there is no such thing as God, and 19% hold one of several new age concepts of who God is. Younger and rural participants are more likely than older and urban participants to hold the view that God is the Creator. About 20% are certain of the existence of ghosts and that other religious practices are helpful.

When asked about life after death, 55% of participants think that heaven and hell are real places, 49% believe that physical death does not cause the death of the human soul, and 33% believe when they die they will go to Heaven because they have confessed their sins and accepted Jesus as Savior. Overall 26% of participants do not know what will happen after they die, 12% believe they will go to Heaven because they are a good person, and 10% believe they will attain Heaven because they have tried to follow the rites of religion. Younger participants are generally more likely than older participants to be certain of what happens after death.

About 30% of participants did not respond to the question on their Christian theology, thus we can assume that the following perspectives come from those who consider themselves to be Christian. Of this group, 91% believe that Jesus was a real person; however, 38% believe he did not return to life after his crucifixion, and 36% believe that he committed sins like other people. About four out of every five (about 80%) believe Jesus was virgin born, that Christian faith is relevant to their life, prayer changes things, angels exist, and people will be judged by God after death. Three out of five (around 60%) believe the Bible is totally accurate, forgiveness of sins is only possible through Jesus, a person who does good things for others will go to Heaven, and all of the miracles recounted in the Bible are true although 76% also believe the Holy Spirit is a symbol rather than a person. Rural Participants are generally more likely by 5% or more than urban and semi urban participants to feel that Christianity is relevant, Jesus was a real person, Jesus was virgin born, the Bible is accurate, the devil is a living being, angels exist, good works don't guarantee heaven, belief in Christ is more important than actions, prayer is effective, forgiveness is only possible through Christ, and they have a responsibility to tell others about their faith. However, rural participants are also more likely than semi-urban participants to believe in reincarnation. Urban and semi-urban participants are more likely than rural participants to believe all religions are the same. Younger participants are about 5% more likely than older participants to feel Christianity is relevant, the Bible is accurate, the Holy Spirit is a living being, prayer is effective, the miracles in the Bible actually occurred, forgiveness is only possible through Christ, and they have a responsibility to tell others about Christ. Older participants are more likely than younger participants to believe the idea of sin is outdated.

Roughly the same group of participants responded to a question as to whether they had made a commitment to Jesus that is still important to them. Of those who responded, 65% made such a commitment with male, urban and semi-urban participants less likely than female and rural participants to report making such a decision. Of those who had made this commitment, 37% did so between 9-12 years of age, 27% between 13-15 years, and 21% between 5-8 years. Rural participants are more likely than urban and semi-urban participants to have made a commitment at a younger age; however, they are less likely than their urban and semi-urban counterparts to have made a commitment after the age of 16.

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 ⁵ (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 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.

⁵ 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.

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 Hispanic</p>			