Spiritual State of the World's Children

United States – Hispanic American Youth





Spiritual State of the World's Children A Quantitative Study

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY FOR MINISTRY

United States – Hispanic American Youth

January 2011

Prepared by:



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ONE**H**OPE

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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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	8	
Logistics	9	
Implementation & Survey Administration	9	
Section III: Profile of Youth in United States	11	
Data Qualifications	11	
Demographics	11	
Family Relationships	11	
Attitudes toward Family and Relationships with the Opposite Sex	12	
Daily Activities and Attitudes	13	
Religious Beliefs and Practices	14	
Section IV: United States Secondary Data	16	

Section I: Key Issues Analysis

Key Issues

■ Family composition

- o 76% indicate living in a two-parent family (includes 14% living in a two-parent household where one is a step-parent)
- o 19% indicate parents are divorced, separated, or remarried
- o 15% indicate living with their mother or stepmother only
- o 7% indicate that their parents were never married
- o 7% indicate that one parent has died

Perception of Family

- Definition of family
 - 44% define family as those related by birth, adoption or marriage
 - 49% 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
 - 86% consider a single woman with children a family
 - 84% consider an unmarried man and woman with children a family
 - Relationship
 - 54% consider an unmarried man and woman a family
 - 46% consider homosexual women a family
 - 48% consider homosexual men a family

Relationship with parents

- o 36% 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
- o 15% spend less than 15 minutes a week talking with their mother about things that really matter
- o 60% spend more than 60 minutes a week talking with their mothers about things that really matter

Safety and Security of home

- o 62% feel their home is a place where they feel safe and loved
- 13% feel only sometimes loved in their homes
- o 10% feel each person in their family is trying to love another
- 9% feel comfortable in their home, but would not consider their family close
- o 6% are uncomfortable and would rather be elsewhere

Marriage

- o 93% feel that they will be happy in their marriage
- o 78% believe God intended marriage to last a life time
- o 73% approve of divorce even when children are involved
- 53% believe marriage problems have been exaggerated
- 55% feel the traditional family does not play a significant role in the stability of society
- 36% report there is too much pressure to get married, would rather live together
- o 29% admire single life
- o 24% indicate that anyone who gets married should anticipate divorce

Sexuality

- 58% would like to be a virgin at marriage; 64 % would regain their virginity if it were possible
- 23% have had sexual intercourse
- 20% consider sex to be always acceptable and 34 % sometimes acceptable
- Most likely to learn about sex from parents, classmates/friends, television/movies, and textbooks
- They are least likely to learn about sex from sex-related magazines and the internet

Satisfaction with life

- 45% are somewhat and 40% very satisfied with their lives
- 15% are somewhat or very dissatisfied with their lives
- Over the past three months
 - 69% report watching MTV
 - 52% admit having lied to their peers
 - 53% indicate they have lied to an adult
 - 18% indicate that they have intentionally tried to emotionally hurt someone
 - 21% watched a pornographic movie and 15 % read a pornographic magazine
 - 18% have drank enough to be considered legally drunk
 - 14% have had suicidal thoughts
 - 6% have attempted suicide
- Influences (cited as having a lot or some influence over thoughts and actions)
 - o 31% Parents (46% a lot of influence)
 - o 39 % Friends (23% a lot of influence)
 - 40% Teachers (17% a lot of influence)
 - o 30% Siblings (19% a lot of influence)
 - o 16% Christianity (24% a lot of influence)
 - o 17% Bible (19% a lot of influence)
 - o 28% Music (9% a lot of influence)
 - 29% Television (8 % a lot of influence)

Moral behavior

- 57% are pragmatic indicating in several ways that moral behavior is relative and justified by whether or not it "works"
- 49% feel bending the rules is okay
- 47% feel lying is sometimes a necessity
- o 25% feel that breaking the law is okay if it does not hurt anyone
- Factors providing future satisfaction (cited as having α lot of importance)
 - o 78% having good physical health
 - 62% having close relationships
 - o 62% having one marriage partner for life
 - 67% having a clear purpose for living
 - 62% living with a high degree of integrity
 - o 61% having a comfortable lifestyle
 - o 60% having a degree
 - o 62% working a high paying job

Religious Practice

- o 65% religion is somewhat (33%) or very (32%) important to them
- 41% report weekly or daily prayer
- 31% participate in weekly or daily religious services

- o 20% participate in weekly or daily youth group
- o 21% report weekly or daily scripture reading, including the Bible, Koran, or other religious scriptures

Christian Theology

- o 89% believe that Jesus Christ was a real person
- 89% have heard about Jesus and the Bible from family or relatives, 83% from Church, and 69% from friends
- o 80% believe that Jesus was born to a virgin
- 72% believe that God created the universe
- 54% believe that truth can mean different things to different people and no one can be sure that they know the truth
- 55% believe the Bible is accurate in all of its teachings (75% believe that the miracles in the Bible took place)
- 61% 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
- o 60% believe that people who do not accept Jesus Christ as their savior can still go to heaven
- 50% believe the Bible provides a clear and indisputable description of moral truth (45% believe this truth is the same for all people)
- o 43% believe that spiritual development is not necessary for leading a satisfying life
- o 46% believe that church membership is important

Strengths & Opportunities

• To be completed by OneHope Latin America team

Weaknesses & Threats

• To be completed by OneHope Latin America team

Recommendations

To be completed by OneHope Latin America team

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 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 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™ ¹certified, 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):

Ethnicity	%
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

This report covers the Hispanic American youth population only.

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

Section III: Profile 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. Hispanic Americans comprised 14.4% of the overall USA sample. Of this group, 41% are male and 59% are female. Due to the disproportionate distribution of the sample, the overall descriptions will tend slightly toward the attitudes of female participants.

Demographics

Of the participants, 46% are 13 -15 years of age and younger and 54% are 16 -18 years of age. Overall 7% are not in school (all of these are over the age of 16), 13% are attending university, 35% are in grades 6-9 and 45% in grades 10-12. Of those attending school, 27% report poor to average school grades, 41% good grades and 32% 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 43% and mothers 47%, which may mean that parents work from home, are self employed or unemployed. The second most likely category of employment is *professional* employment for parents with 18% for fathers and 24% for mothers; fathers in the *service industry* are at 13% and mothers 16% and lastly father's profession as *industrial* is at 14% and mother's is at 6%.

Sixty-seven percent of participants report that their parents are married, 16% that their parents are divorced or separated, 7% that their parents have never been married and 3% that they are divorced and remarried. Overall, 62% of participants report that they live with their natural mother and father, 15% live with their mother or step-mother only, and 14% of participants report living with two parents, one of which is a step parent.

Family Relationships

Only 6% of participants feel their home is place they would rather not live, 62% feel that they are safe and loved, 13% feel loved and at other times do not, and 10% feel their home is a place where everyone is trying to love each other.

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 extent 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.

Overall 37% of participants spend more than one hour a week talking to their fathers about things that really matter to them, while 36% spend 15 minutes or less. Participants are far more likely to talk with their mothers, with 60% talking for an hour or more and only 15% spending 15 minutes or less talking about things that really matter. However, 43% of participants describe their relationship with their father and 67% with their mother as very close and another 28% of participants indicate they are fairly close with their father and another 21% with their mother. Male participants are more likely than female participants to describe their relationship with fathers as close or are slightly more likely to state that they are very close to their father.

About half of the participants are frequently proud of their father and two thirds are proud of their mother. Male participants are more likely than female participants to talk to their father about personal concerns; however, they are also more likely to report wondering whether or not their father loves them. Female participants are just as likely as 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 talking to their mother about personal concerns and to show love for their mother.

Attitudes toward Family and Relationships with the Opposite Sex

Ninety-three percent of participants believe they will be very happy in their own marriages and over 88% 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 73% of participants condone divorce if the couple no longer loves each other even when there are children involved. By and large female participants are more likely to value virginity and to be against the idea of divorce, while male participants are more likely to desire a marriage like their parents and to be optimistic about the role of family than female participants. Older participants are 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 believe that God intended marriage for a lifetime.

Forty-four percent of participants define family as people related by birth, adoption or marriage and 49% 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 are a family, over 45% consider homosexual couples who live together as family and about 85% indicate than an unmarried women and her children or an unmarried couple and children are families. Female participants are about 8% more likely than male participants to consider male or female homosexual couples who live together as 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 the majority of male and older participants have learned something about sex on the internet.

When asked what would influence 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 forms of affection are acceptable without coercion for two people who are in love, more than 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 are always acceptable in this situation. When asked about their own sexual experience, 23% of participants report that they have had sexual intercourse, 45% engaged in heavy kissing and over 25% in sexual fondling. Older participants are more likely than younger participants to engage in foreplay and sexual activities.

Daily Activities and Attitudes

For the most part participants tend to be satisfied with their lives, 40% are very satisfied, 45% somewhat satisfied and 15% 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 15% 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 future 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 having one marriage partner for life, 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. Participants are more 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 about one third and between 4 and 8 hours for about another third; they also report 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. 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 the following most influential. Christianity and siblings are somewhat more influential than the media (TV, music, movies) with textbooks and the internet. The least influential are other religions and political leaders. Younger participants are more likely than older participants to report being more influenced by their teachers.

Although 64% of participants feel that their faith is very important and about half indicate that it influences their lives, 67% also agree that truth is relative and no one can be positive that they know it. More than 75% of the participants do not support negative statements about the Bible's applicability; however only half believe that the Bible provides an indisputable description of moral truth. While over 75% do not agree that you can break the law even if no one is hurt, however 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. 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, their friends or peers. About 20% have attempted to hurt someone emotionally, watched or read pornography, smoked cigarettes or drank enough alcohol to become drunk. About 15% gambled, attempted to physically hurt someone 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 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, or been drunk.

Religious Beliefs and Practices

Overall, participants' religious affiliation is: 39% Protestant, 37% Roman Catholic, 10% practice personal faith and 8% have no religion. Female and younger participants are slightly more likely than male and older participants to be Protestant. Sixty-five percent of the participants indicate that their religion is either very or somewhat important to them, 18% that it is not at all important and 17% that it is not too important. Younger and male participants are more likely than older and female participants to indicate that religion is important to them.

No participants indicated that they attend religious services daily, 31% weekly and 61% less frequently or not at all. Other family members attend religious services at about the same rate, although fathers are slightly less likely to attend religious services than mothers. Younger participants are more likely than older participants to indicate that they, their father and siblings regularly attend religious services. Participants are more likely to report that they pray than any other religious practice, this is followed by reading scriptures. However, only 45% pray at least monthly or more often and only 24% read scriptures monthly or more often. Female and younger participants are more likely than male and older participants to attend a religious scripture study group.

Participants indicate that 43% of them are unlikely to attend religious services after leaving home; however, 32% of participants are somewhat likely to continue to attend and 25% 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 19% of participants attend a religious youth group that meets weekly; younger participants are more likely than older participants to attend a religious youth group. Of those attending a youth group, 12% attend a group smaller than ten members, 16% between 10 and 19, 12% between 20 to 39, and 8% more than 40.

Participants are most likely to have learned about the Bible or Jesus from their family or churches, some from western literature and friends. When asked about the existence of God, 69% are certain of God's existence, 22% are uncertain and 9% do not believe God exists. Overall, 52% of participants consider God to be omnipotent, omniscient, Creator who rules the world today, 24% do not know what they believe or think there is no such thing as God and 24% hold one of several new age concepts of who God is. Younger participants are more likely than older participants to hold the view that God is the Creator. About 25% are certain of the existence of ghosts and that other religious practices are helpful.

When asked about life after death, 53% 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 28% believe when they die they will go to Heaven because they have confessed their sins and accepted Jesus as Savior. Overall 24% of participants do not know what will happen after they die, 13% believe they will go to Heaven because they are a good person and 12% 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, 89% believe that Jesus was a real person; however, 42% believe he did not return to life after his crucifixion and 40% that he committed sins like other people. 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. More than half believe the Bible is totally accurate, 70% believe forgiveness of sins is only possible through Jesus, 61% that a person who does good things for others will go to heaven and 75% that all of the miracles recounted in the Bible are true; however, 76% also believe the Holy Spirit is a symbol not a person. Younger participants are about 10% more likely to feel Christianity is relevant than older participants.

Seventy-six percent 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 had made this commitment, 32% did so between 9-12 years of age, 22% between 13-15 years and 25% between 5-8 years.

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)	\$45,759.46			
per capita				
GDP (official exchange rate) per capita	\$45,958.70			
Poverty Rate (% below poverty line)	12%			

SOCIAL				
Human Development Index ⁴ (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.

⁴ 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%				

note: 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.**