

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



Notes: Surveys were administered in randomly selected accessible schools. Inaccessible schools are those in conflict zones or areas of extremely low population, and those that cannot be reached by public transportation. Reported respondents are those who participated in the survey and answered the question. Not all participants answered all questions. The composition of the sample set—3,876 students aged about 13 to 18, with 67% rural and 61% aged 16 or older (population density and gender are proportional to the national population distribution) —indicates a skew towards rural and older subjects’ attitudes. Data was collected from May to August 2010. SSWC was completed in October 2010 for OneHope by the Metadigm Group.

Zimbabwe	Positive Aspects	Negative Aspects	Key Notes
Family Relationships and Perspectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 61% feel very close to their mothers. Males and rural subjects are less often close than are their peers. 61% feel that mothers frequently show love for them. 57% of respondents report their parents as married. 44% feel that fathers frequently show love for them. 37% feel very close to their fathers. Females and rural youth are less often close than are their peers. 37% often talk with mothers about personal concerns. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 49% do not live with both natural parents. 46% sometimes or frequently wonder if their fathers and 44% if their mothers love them. 30% do not know their father or he is not alive. 28% report that one or both parents have died. 12% report that their parents have been divorced. 16% do not know their mother or she is not alive. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural respondents report 9% less often than their peers that their parents are married. 16-18% consider cohabiting homosexual couples to be families. Semi-urban youth are significantly less likely to do so than their peers. 56% say home is where they feel safe and loved. Males report this 6% less often than females. 64% report an overall positive family experience.
Relationships with People of the Opposite Sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 81% expect to be very happy in their marriage. 80% believe God meant marriage to last a lifetime. Rural youth report this less often than their peers. 79% do not expect that marriage will end in divorce. 70% indicate premarital sex for a couple in love is never acceptable. 67% would like to be a virgin when they marry. 57% want a marriage like their parents’. 56% believe most marriages are healthy and fulfilling. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 72% do not believe society’s stability depends on the traditional family’s survival. 49% think that where children are involved, divorce is acceptable. 46% agree that it is very hard to have a successful marriage these days. 24% of males, 18% of rural and older youth, and 16% overall report that they have had intercourse. Parents were the least reported source of information about sex. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Males report 23% less often than females that they would like to be a virgin when they marry. They report 9% more often that they would rather live with someone than marry. Semi-urban youth accept divorce 8% less than urban and 18% less than rural peers. They expect divorce 7% and 12% less often; and they more often expect to be happy in their marriages. But they also report 13% less often that their overall family experience has been positive.
Behaviors and Beliefs in Daily Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 91% report that they did not use an illegal drug in the three months before the survey. 91% did not use tobacco. 87% had not been legally drunk. 57% read the Bible for an hour or more weekly. Reading a book and studying from school materials occupy the most time for students in a given week. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 66% lied to a friend or peer and 64% to an adult in the three months prior to the survey. 35% tried to physically and 30% to emotionally hurt someone. 27% watched a pornographic movie. 25% cheated on an exam or evaluation. 19% stole money or a material possession. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Male participants are more likely than females to have engaged in most undesirable activities. 61% believe that you sometimes have to bend the rules to your own benefit to get by. 55% know that something is morally or ethically right if it works in their lives. 34% say it’s ok to break the law if no one is hurt.
Religious Background and Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 86% have made a personal commitment to Jesus. 85% believe in the efficacy of prayer. 64% pray daily. 85% believe forgiveness of sins is only possible through faith in Jesus Christ. 83% believe God is the all-powerful creator who rules the world today. 68% remember when beliefs changed their behavior. 61% attend religious services weekly or daily. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 68% believe the Holy Spirit is only a symbol. 65% believe good people earn a place in heaven. 60% believe all religions pray to the same God. 43% think all religions believe the same truths. 40% deny Jesus’ physical resurrection. 48% do not agree that they will go to heaven because they confessed sins and accepted Jesus. 34% believe in reincarnation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bible and the Christian faith are the greatest reported influences in subjects’ lives. 81% believe the Bible provides a clear description of moral truth. But 62% agree that moral truth means different things to different people and that no one can be sure they know the truth. Semi-urban youth believe more often than their peers that God created the universe.
Identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 73% of respondents report that they are somewhat or very satisfied with their lives. 77% report that having a close relationship with God is very important in their futures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21% of subjects report suicidal thoughts in the three months before the survey. Rural youth report so significantly more often than their peers. 13% are not at all satisfied with their lives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60% believe that a full and satisfying life is not possible without the pursuit of spiritual maturity.