

Spiritual State of the World's Children: Summary Table, Argentina



Notes: Surveys were administered in randomly selected accessible schools. Inaccessible schools were those in conflict zones or areas of extremely low population, and those that could not 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 sample was 47% male and 53% female. Otherwise, rural participation skewed toward males and urban toward students 16 and older. SSWC was completed in June 2010 for OneHope by the Metadigm Group.

Argentina	Positive Aspects	Negative Aspects	Key Notes
Family Relationships and Perspectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 90% of respondents report sometimes or frequently feeling proud of their mothers. 76% sometimes or frequently feel proud of their fathers. 69% report that their mothers frequently show love for them. 48% indicated the same for fathers. 59% feel very close to their mothers. 41% feel very close to their fathers. 57% report that their parents are married and 65% that they live with both natural parents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 47% almost never talk to their fathers about personal concerns. 44% spend less than 5 minutes per week talking to fathers vs. 20% to mothers about things that really matter to them. 41% sometimes or frequently wonder if their mothers and 39% if their fathers love them. 24% report that their parents have been divorced. 20% live with a single parent. 20-23% consider a cohabiting homosexual couple to be a family. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 74% of respondents indicate that family is any person or group that you love or care about deeply. 20% chose a more traditional definition—people related by birth, adoption, or marriage—with older students more likely to do so. 73% of respondents indicate an overall positive family experience. Rural and younger students report this more often than their peers. 14% report that they are uncomfortable at home and would rather be elsewhere; another 14% note that their families are not close.
Relationships with People of the Opposite Sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 87% believe God meant marriage to last a lifetime. 84% expect to be very happy in their marriage. 67% do not expect that their marriage will end in divorce. 38% would like to have a marriage like their parents'. Respondents under 16 were 10% less likely to agree that it is very hard to have a successful marriage. Females reported 9% less often than male respondents that premarital sex is acceptable for couples in love. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80% agree that it is very hard to have a successful marriage these days. 67% do not wish to be a virgin when they marry. 65% of older students, 62% of males, 58% of urban respondents, and 50% overall report that they have had sexual intercourse. Classmates and friends are the most reported source of information about sex. 59% indicate that premarital sex is acceptable for a couple in love. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Males report 21% more often and older youth 29% more often that they have had intercourse. Males are 22% less likely to want to be virgins when they marry. They are 13% more likely to believe that marriage ends in divorce. Urban youth are 15-20% more likely and older respondents 11% more likely to approve of divorce where children are involved. Respondents are almost evenly split on the question: is divorce acceptable where children are involved? 52% said "Yes" and 48% "No."
Behaviors and Beliefs in Daily Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 87% report that they did not use an illegal drug in the three months before the survey was administered. 83% did not steal money or a material possession. 69% did not use tobacco. Females were less than half as likely as males to have used illegal drugs, stolen, or gambled. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 77% lied to an adult and 62% to a friend or peer in the three months prior to the survey. 75% cheated on an exam or evaluation. 41% had been legally drunk. 38% tried to hurt someone physically. 22% watched a pornographic movie. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Females were 29% less likely to have viewed a pornographic movie and 19% less likely to have been drunk. Rural students were more likely to have stolen, to have been drunk, or to have gambled; but they were less likely to have lied or cheated.
Religious Background and Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 87% have made a personal commitment to Jesus that is still relevant in their lives. * 83% agree that forgiveness of sins is only possible through faith in Jesus Christ. 57% agree that God is the omnipotent, omniscient, Creator who rules the world today. * 70% report that prayer can change what happens. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 82% believe the Holy Spirit is only a symbol. * 78% believe that good people earn their place in heaven. * 66% believe all religions pray to the same God. * 61% believe Jesus did not physically rise. 61% said the soul may or does die with the body. 37% do not know what will happen when they die. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students report "a lot" of influence by Christianity at 4 to 12 times the rate for any other religious tradition. While 65% believe the Bible describes moral truth, 73% said it does not provide a current and practical standard of living. 84% indicated a belief in some form of moral relativism.
Identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 83% of respondents report that they are somewhat or very satisfied with their lives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24% of respondents had suicidal thoughts in the three months before the survey. 6% report that they are not at all satisfied with their lives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60% report that living with a high degree of integrity is very important for their future. There is clearly tension between this aspiration and reports that 84% believe lying is sometimes necessary.

* Less than half the total sample responded to the indicated questions about their religious beliefs.