

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



Notes: Surveys were administered in randomly selected accessible schools. Inaccessible schools were those in conflict zones or areas of extremely low population, those where access was denied, and those that could not be reached by public transportation. Reported respondents are those who chose to participate and answered a particular question. Not all participants answered all questions. The composition of the sample set—4,290 students aged 13 to over 18, 56% female and 59% urban—indicates a skew toward female and urban attitudes. Data was collected from May to July 2010. SSWC was completed in August 2010 for OneHope by the Metadigm Group.

Botswana	Positive Aspects	Negative Aspects	Key Notes
Family Relationships and Perspectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>74% subscribe to a traditional definition of family—those related by birth, adoption, or marriage.</li> <li>66% report an overall positive family experience.</li> <li>65% feel very close to their mothers. 39% feel very close to their fathers.</li> <li>63% feel that their mothers and 38% that their fathers frequently show love for them.</li> <li>59% report that home is where they feel safe and loved. Younger subjects report this 8% more often than their older peers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>62% do not live with both natural parents.</li> <li>Only 39% report that their parents are married; another 5% report parents who remarried following a divorce.</li> <li>29% report that their father is not alive or that they do not know him. 14% report the same of their mothers.</li> <li>57% sometimes or frequently wonder if their mothers love them; 48% report the same of their fathers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>22% report that one or both parents have died.</li> <li>About 85% do not consider cohabiting homosexual couples to be a family.</li> <li>Male participants are more likely than their female counterparts to report spending one-on-one time with their fathers.</li> <li>Females are more likely than males to talk about personal concerns and spend one-on-one time with their mothers.</li> </ul>
Relationships with People of the Opposite Sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>89% expect to be very happy in their marriage.</li> <li>82% believe God meant marriage to last a lifetime.</li> <li>61% do not expect that marriage will end in divorce.</li> <li>60% would like to have a marriage like their parents’.</li> <li>51% indicate that premarital sex for a couple in love is never acceptable. Female, rural, and younger respondents report this more often than their peers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>74% agree that it is very hard to have a successful marriage these days. 57% believe that divorce is acceptable where children are involved.</li> <li>59% do not wish to be a virgin when they marry.</li> <li>41% would rather live with someone than marry.</li> <li>30% of older students, 29% of males, and 21% overall report that they have had had intercourse.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Males report nearly twice as often and older youth just over twice as often that they have had intercourse.</li> <li>Younger respondents more often want a marriage like their parents’. Rural students less often anticipate that marriage will end in divorce.</li> <li>Parents are the least reported source of information about sex.</li> </ul>
Behaviors and Beliefs in Daily Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>91% report that they did not use an illegal drug in the three months before the survey was administered.</li> <li>91% did not use tobacco.</li> <li>85% had not been legally drunk.</li> <li>85% did not cheat on an exam or evaluation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>59% lied to a friend or peer and 47% to an adult in the three months prior to the survey.</li> <li>31% read a pornographic magazine.</li> <li>26% tried to hurt someone physically.</li> <li>20% gambled or bet money on something.</li> <li>18% stole money or a material possession.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Male participants were more likely than females to have watched pornographic movies (by 15%), gambled (by 11%), tried to physically hurt someone (by 10%), been drunk (by 8%), used illegal drugs (by 6%), and used tobacco (by 5%).</li> <li>Older participants were 12% more likely than their younger counterparts to have been drunk.</li> </ul>
Religious Background and Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>83% report that prayer can change what happens.</li> <li>82% agree that forgiveness of sins is only possible through faith in Jesus Christ.</li> <li>77% (of the 87% to respond) have made a personal commitment to Jesus that is still relevant in their lives.</li> <li>39% pray daily.</li> <li>31% believe they will go to heaven because they confessed sins and accepted Jesus as savior.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>81% believe the Holy Spirit is only a symbol.</li> <li>64% believe all religions pray to the same God.</li> <li>55% believe Jesus did not physically return to life.</li> <li>52% believe in reincarnation.</li> <li>47% say it does not matter what religious faith you follow. They all believe the same principles.</li> <li>41% believe that the whole idea of sin is outdated.</li> <li>77% believe good people earn a place in heaven.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Christian faith has more reported influence with participants than any other religion.</li> <li>Females and rural participants report greater influence by the Bible.</li> <li>While 78% believe the Bible describes moral truth, 72% believe moral truth can mean different things to different people. 70% believe that if something works in their lives it is right.</li> </ul>
Identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>61% of respondents—the younger more than the older—report that they are somewhat or very satisfied with their lives.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>17% of respondents had suicidal thoughts in the three months before the survey.</li> <li>17% are not at all satisfied with their lives.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>75% report that having a close relationship with God is very important for their future.</li> </ul>