

# Spiritual State of the World's Children: Summary Table, Costa Rica



Notes: Surveys were administered in randomly selected accessible schools in 2008. Schools considered inaccessible are those in conflict zones, areas of extremely low population, or that cannot be reached by public transportation. 59% of participants were 13 to 15 years old. 39% were 16 to 18. 60% of participants were urban vs. 40% rural.

In all cases, reported respondents are those who participated in the survey and answered the question. Not all participants answered all questions. SSWC is produced for OneHope by the Metadigm Group.

Costa Rica	Positive Aspects	Negative Aspects	Key Notes
Family Relationships and Perspectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>59% live with their natural parents.</li> <li>55% of respondents report that their parents are married.</li> <li>46% spend 4 hours or more a week talking about things that matter to them with their fathers.</li> <li>43% are very close to their fathers.</li> <li>77% spend 4 or more hours weekly talking to mothers about things that matter to them.</li> <li>66% report that they are very close to their mothers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>24% report that their parents are divorced and separated.</li> <li>23% live with a single parent or step parent.</li> <li>54% almost never talk to fathers about personal concerns.</li> <li>10% do not know their fathers or report that he is dead.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Families are reported to be very close, but some responses about communication with fathers may challenge those reports.</li> <li>General questions reveal strong, positive feelings about parents and families. But 27% of female respondents (vs. 18% of males) sometimes feel loved in the home and sometimes do not.</li> <li>41% agree that parents almost never admit when they are wrong or mistaken.</li> </ul>
Relationships with People of the Opposite Sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>85% believe that they will be happy in their own marriages.</li> <li>85% of those under 16 have not had intercourse.</li> <li>56% of females and 51% of younger subjects feel that being in love never makes premarital intercourse acceptable.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>64% do not want a marriage like their parents.</li> <li>38% of those aged 16 and older have had intercourse.</li> <li>24% of all respondents have already had sexual intercourse.</li> <li>45% of respondents do not want to be a virgin when they are married.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confidence about their own future marriages seems to conflict with respondents' opinions about marriage in general.</li> <li>Male and female responses indicating the value of virginity are widely divergent. Females give it a much greater value.</li> </ul>
Behaviors and Beliefs in Daily Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>84% of respondents did not use illegal drugs in the three months preceding the survey.</li> <li>58% say that parents are a strong influence in their lives.</li> <li>66% say that the Christian faith is a strong influence in their lives.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>73% tried to hurt someone physically in the three months before the survey.</li> <li>47% were legally drunk</li> <li>34% stole.</li> <li>89% lied to a parent or an adult.</li> <li>84% cheated on an exam.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Males were twice as likely as females to have viewed pornography or gambled.</li> <li>Older subjects were more likely to have used alcohol, drugs, or tobacco. Younger subjects were more likely to have tried to hurt someone.</li> </ul>
Religious Background and Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>88% agree with the Christian view of a creator God as opposed to new age, atheistic, or agnostic positions.</li> <li>83% agree that the Bible provides indisputable moral truth.</li> <li>77% agree that the Bible's moral truths are the same for all people in all situations without exception.</li> <li>59% of participants can recall a recent behavioral change caused by their religious beliefs.</li> <li>92% report that their faith is important in their lives.</li> <li>42% pray daily.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>91% do not agree that they will go to heaven because they accepted Jesus.</li> <li>57% agree that breaking the law is ok if you don't hurt anyone.</li> <li>86% say that lying is sometimes necessary.</li> <li>63% agree that sometimes you have to bend the rules.</li> <li>82% think that truths can be in contradiction.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>72% greatly desire a life of integrity for their futures, but their reported behaviors and their willingness to break the law do not support this.</li> <li>50% rarely or seldom attend church services and fathers are less likely to attend than mothers or the respondents themselves.</li> <li>Most agree that the Bible is accurate, and subscribe to basic Christian theology, but 63% feel all religions pray to the same god.</li> <li>There seems to be a divide between knowledge and understanding/application.</li> </ul>
Identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>53% of all respondents are very satisfied with their lives, although females report a lower satisfaction rate than males.</li> <li>Only 4% indicate they are not at all satisfied.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>26% report that they had suicidal thoughts in the three months before the survey.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is a seeming tension between the finding that 96% of respondents were at least somewhat satisfied with their lives and the 26% reporting that they had recently thought about suicide.</li> <li>Females were 7% more likely than males to have had suicidal thoughts.</li> </ul>