

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



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—3,863 students aged about 13 to 18, 54% female and 69% under 16 (At survey administration 12th grade students were taking exit exams and unavailable.)—indicates a skew toward females and a heavy skew toward younger students. .Data was collected from May to July 2010. SSWC was completed in September 2010 by the Metadigm Group.

D.R.	Positive Aspects	Negative Aspects	Key Notes
Family Relationships and Perspectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 76% frequently feel proud of their mothers. 58% frequently feel proud of their fathers. 72% feel that their mothers and 57% that their fathers frequently show love for them. 67% feel very close to their mothers. 50% feel very close to their fathers. 44% report that home is where they feel safe and loved. 74% report an overall positive family experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 56% sometimes or frequently wonder if their mothers and 47% if their fathers love them. 49% do not live with both natural parents. 32% of respondents report that their parents are divorced and separated. 13% report that they are usually uncomfortable at home and would rather be elsewhere. 12% report that their father is not alive or that they do not know him. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only 19% define family as people related by birth, adoption or marriage. 13 to 15% regard cohabiting homosexual couples as families. Younger students report more often than older respondents that they are very close to both fathers and mothers. 40% of respondents spend less than 5 minutes per week talking to fathers vs. 21% to mothers about things that really matter to them.
Relationships with People of the Opposite Sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 90% believe God meant marriage to last a lifetime. 85% expect to be very happy in their marriage. 73% do not expect that marriage will end in divorce. 61% would like to be a virgin when they marry. 59% believe divorce is not acceptable where children are involved. 52% (64% of females, 37% of males) believe premarital sex is never acceptable for a couple in love. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 75% agree that it is very hard to have a successful marriage these days. 61% do not want a marriage like their parents’. 60% would rather live with someone than marry. 46% of older students, 45% of males, and 31% overall reported that they had had intercourse. Parents are among the least reported sources of information about sex. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Younger subjects less often agree that society depends on the family, but they more often agree most marriages are healthy and fulfilling. Female participants are more likely than males (by 31%) to want to remain a virgin until marriage. Males report more than twice as often and older students nearly twice as often as their female and younger peers that they have had intercourse.
Behaviors and Beliefs in Daily Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 95% report that they did not use an illegal drug in the three months before the survey was administered. 92% did not use tobacco. 90% did not steal money or a material possession. 80% did not gamble or bet money. Parents and Christianity are reported to have the most influence in participants’ lives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 57% lied to a friend or peer and 50% to an adult in the three months prior to the survey. 42% cheated on an exam or evaluation. 27% had been legally drunk. 24% viewed pornography. 22% tried to hurt someone physically. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Male participants are more likely than females to report having watched pornographic movies (by 23%), gambled (by 13%), and been drunk (by 7%). Older participants are more likely than their younger peers to have been drunk (by 9%), cheated (by 7%), watched pornographic movies (by 6%), and lied to an adult (by 6%).
Religious Background and Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 91% believe the universe was created by God. 90% report that faith is very important in their lives. 80% believe God is the all powerful creator who rules today. * 78% believe the Bible is accurate in all its teachings. * 76% agree that forgiveness of sins is only possible through faith in Jesus Christ. 41% believe they will go to heaven because they confessed sins and accepted Jesus as savior. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 91% indicate that the Bible/Koran does not provide today's people with practical standards for living. * 46% believe that the whole idea of sin is outdated. * 45% believe that good people earn a place in heaven. * 27% believe all religions pray to the same God. 22% don't know what will happen after they die. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> While 84% agree the Bible provides moral truth that is the same for all, 81% believe truth may be defined in contradictory ways and be correct. * Rural participants are 9% more likely to believe Christianity has relevance for their lives. * Urban participants are more likely to believe that all religions believe the same principles and truths, that good works gain access to Heaven, and that Christ committed sins while on earth.
Identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60% of respondents report that they are very satisfied with their lives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 19% of respondents had suicidal thoughts in the three months before the survey. 16% report that they are not at all or not very satisfied with their lives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Getting a degree is most often cited as important to respondents’ futures. Good physical health, a clear purpose for living, and a close relationship with God are the next most cited.

* 80% of participants in this sample answered these questions.