

Spiritual State of the World's Children: Summary Table, South Africa, Free State



Notes: The survey sample was not randomized by school but was administered at schools where educators were already participating in another OneHope program and was administered by teachers at those schools. This decreases the certainty that its results fairly represent all secondary students in Free State. 66% of those surveyed were 15 years of age and younger and 34% were 16 years of age and older. In all cases, reported respondents are those who participated in the survey and answered the question. Not all participants answered all questions. SSWC was completed in February 2008 for OneHope by the Metadigm Group.

South Africa, Free State	Positive Aspects	Negative Aspects	Key Notes
Family Relationships and Perspectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 39% of respondents live with both natural parents. 31% are very close to their fathers. 63% are very close to their mothers. 46% feel that fathers frequently show love for them. 70% feel that mothers frequently show love for them. 64% said that home is where they feel safe and loved. 67% said that their family experience has been positive. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 35% of respondents report that their fathers have died or that they do not know them. 14% report that their mothers are not alive. 9% report that both parents have died. 18% live with a single parent. 19% live with a grandparent. 20% of respondents report that their parents are divorced or separated. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although 25% report that their father is dead, most still answered other questions about their relationships with fathers. This should skew results toward limited interaction. A smaller skew can be assumed for interaction with mothers. Younger respondents were less likely to have lost one or both parents. Despite the high incidence of parental loss or absence, students generally responded positively to questions about their home lives.
Relationships with People of the Opposite Sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 85% said they will be very happy in their marriage. 82% say that God intended marriage to last a lifetime. 61% want a marriage like their parents. 54% indicated that premarital sex for a couple in love is never acceptable. 63% would like to be a virgin when they marry. 75% of respondents have not had sexual intercourse. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 38% of older students have had sexual intercourse. 70% believe it is very hard to have a successful marriage these days. 41% of males have had sexual intercourse. 29% of respondents learned a lot about sex from TV or movies, the most frequently indicated source. Parents were the least likely source. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responses from female respondents indicated a significantly greater value for virginity. Older students were more than twice as likely to have had sexual intercourse. As this group is underrepresented in the sample, the survey may substantially underreport sexual activity.
Behaviors and Beliefs in Daily Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 88% did not use an illegal drug in the three months before the survey was administered. 79% did not use tobacco. 78% did not cheat on an exam or evaluation. Parents were the greatest reported influence in respondent's lives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60% lied to a friend or peer in the three months prior to the survey. 51% lied to a parent, teacher, or an adult. 48% say it's ok to break the law if no one is hurt. 38% viewed pornographic materials. 37% gambled. 31% stole. 30% had been legally drunk. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is of interest that the incidence of cheating is so much lower than that of lying. 71% of respondents could recall a time when their religious beliefs affected their behavior. But 68% said that whatever works in their lives is morally right. Older students were significantly more likely to report this type of practical morality.
Religious Background and Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 87% of respondents say that faith is very important. 86% believe that God created the universe. 73% of respondents indicated that a close relationship with God is very important to their futures. 85% feel that church membership is important. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60% agreed that all religions teach equally valid truths. 45% agreed that other popular religious practices are helpful. 30% believe that ghosts exist and influence life. Another 44% think maybe this is true. 29% are not sure if God exists. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 23% share new age ideas about God—that everyone is god or that god is a higher state of consciousness. 16% follow an indigenous faith. 21% agree that accepting Jesus is necessary to go to heaven. The same number said religious rites are the way to heaven or that they don't know what will happen when they die.
Identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 58% of respondents report that they are very satisfied with their lives. Only 7% report that they are not at all satisfied. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 27% of respondents had suicidal thoughts in the three months before the survey. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 55% of respondents indicated that living with a high degree of integrity is very important for the future.