

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



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—4,184 students aged about 13 to 18, 91% age 16 and over—indicates a heavy skew toward older attitudes. Data was collected from October 2007 to January 2008. SSWC was completed in March 2008 for OneHope by the Metadigm Group.

Ghana	Positive Aspects	Negative Aspects	Key Notes
Family Relationships and Perspectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>71% feel that mothers and 44% that fathers frequently show love for them.</li> <li>69% feel very close to their mothers and 45% to their fathers.</li> <li>59% of respondents report their parents as married.</li> <li>58% frequently seek advice from their mothers and 35% from their fathers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>71% sometimes or frequently wonder if their mothers and 62% if their fathers love them.</li> <li>46% do not live with both natural parents. 21% report their parents as divorced/separated.</li> <li>24% spend no time in a typical week talking to fathers about things that really matter to them.</li> <li>18% report that their father is not alive or that they do not know him.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>66% report an overall positive family experience.</li> <li>39% overall report that home is where they feel safe and loved. Semi-urban students are 10% less likely than their rural and urban peers to report so.</li> <li>85% describe a family as those related by birth, marriage, or adoption, but 10% to 12% consider cohabiting homosexual couples to be families.</li> <li>16% report that one or both parents have died.</li> </ul>
Relationships with People of the Opposite Sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>91% expect to be very happy in their marriage.</li> <li>89% believe God meant marriage to last a lifetime.</li> <li>80% do not expect that marriage will end in divorce.</li> <li>78% believe divorce is not acceptable where children are involved.</li> <li>78% would wait to have sex after marriage if they could change the past.</li> <li>76% indicate that premarital sex for a couple in love is never acceptable.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>74% agree that it is very hard to have a successful marriage these days.</li> <li>47% do not want a marriage like their parents'.</li> <li>42% do not wish to be a virgin when they marry.</li> <li>38% would rather live with someone than marry.</li> <li>23% report that they have had intercourse.</li> <li>Parents were the least reported source of information about sex.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overall, semi-urban subjects indicate the most positive and urban subjects the most negative viewpoints on marriage. For example, they are 11% and 23% more likely than their rural and urban peers to believe divorce is not acceptable where children are involved, and they are 24% more likely to want to be virgins at marriage.</li> <li>Urban students are 9% to 12% less likely than their semi-urban and rural peers to report that they have had intercourse.</li> </ul>
Behaviors and Beliefs in Daily Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>95% report that they did not use an illegal drug in the three months before the survey was administered.</li> <li>91% did not get legally drunk.</li> <li>91% did not try to hurt someone physically.</li> <li>86% did not cheat on an exam or evaluation.</li> <li>89% did not use tobacco.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>63% believe they can know something is morally right if it works in their lives.</li> <li>53% lied to a friend or peer and 44% to an adult in the three months prior to the survey.</li> <li>21% watched a pornographic movie.</li> <li>21% gambled or bet money on something.</li> <li>13% stole money or a material possession.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Males more often report that they viewed pornography and gambled; females more often report that they lied.</li> <li>Over 80% of subjects agree that the Bible gives a clear description of moral truth that is the same for all people in all situations; but 68% indicate that truth can mean different things to different people: no one can be sure they have the truth.</li> </ul>
Religious Background and Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>91% agree that prayer is effective.</li> <li>91% believe the universe was created by God.</li> <li>91% agree that forgiveness of sins is only possible through faith in Jesus Christ.</li> <li>62% believe they will go to heaven because they confessed sins and accepted Jesus as savior.</li> <li>58% attend religious services at least weekly.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>84% believe the Holy Spirit is only a symbol.</li> <li>78% believe all religions pray to the same God.</li> <li>73% are not sure or do not believe God exists.</li> <li>73% believe good people earn a place in heaven.</li> <li>47% believe in reincarnation.</li> <li>42% believe Jesus did not physically return to life.</li> <li>37% believe that the whole idea of sin is outdated.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students selected the Bible and the Christian faith as the sources most likely to influence their thoughts and actions.</li> <li>Semi-urban students indicate that they will go to heaven because they confessed sins and accepted Jesus 16% and 19% more often than their rural and urban peers.</li> </ul>
Identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>69% of respondents report that they are somewhat or very satisfied with their lives.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13% are not at all satisfied with their lives.</li> <li>14% of respondents had suicidal thoughts in the three months before the survey.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Of listed conditions, a close relationship with God was chosen most often as very important for subjects' futures.</li> </ul>