

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



Notes: Surveys were administered in randomly selected accessible schools. Inaccessible schools are those in conflict zones or areas of extremely low population, and those that cannot be reached by public transportation. Reported respondents are those who participated in the survey and answered the question. Not all participants answered all questions. The sample set contained a disproportionate percentage of younger children in rural populations and older students in urban populations. Females are under-represented and students under the age of 16 are severely under-represented. SSWC was completed in July 2008 for OneHope by the Metadigm Group. The project was delayed* due to post 2007 Election violence, which may have influenced students' responses.

Kenya	Positive Aspects	Negative Aspects	Key Notes
Family Relationships and Perspectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 72% of respondents report that their parents are married and 63% report an overall positive family experience. Males were 6% more likely than females to report this. 46% feel very close to their fathers. 70% feel very close to their mothers. 51% feel that fathers frequently show love for them. 72% feel that mothers frequently show love for them. 37% frequently seek advice from their fathers. 54% frequently seek advice from their mothers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5% report that both parents have died. 13% report that one parent has died. 16% report that their father is not alive or that they do not know him. 25% spend less than 5 minutes per week talking to fathers vs. 12% to mothers about things that really matter to them. 51% sometimes or frequently wonder if their mothers love them—the same percentage reported for fathers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban students were about 6% less likely to report that their parents were married and 8% more likely to report that home is where they sometimes do not feel loved. But they were 8-10% more likely to report a positive family experience. Kenyan youth report an extremely close maternal relationship, but over half sometimes or frequently wonder if their mothers love them.
Relationships with People of the Opposite Sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 89% expect to be very happy in their marriage. 85% believe God meant marriage to last a lifetime. 84% do not expect that their marriage will end in divorce. 70% indicated that premarital sex for a couple in love is never acceptable. Females reported this 14% more often than male respondents. 63% would like to be a virgin when they marry. 63% would like to have a marriage like their parents'. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 54% agree that it is very hard to have a successful marriage these days and 46% believe that divorce is acceptable where children are involved. 44% would rather live with someone than marry. 37% do not wish to be a virgin when they marry. 29% of males, 23% of older students, and 21% overall reported that they had had intercourse. Parents were the least reported source of information about sex. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Males were 10% and younger students 8% less likely to want to be virgins when they marry. Males reported 19% more often and older youth almost twice as often that they had had intercourse. But older students were also more likely to want to be a virgin at marriage Rural students were less accepting of divorce where children are involved.
Behaviors and Beliefs in Daily Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 91% report that they did not use an illegal drug in the three months before the survey was administered. 90% did not use tobacco. 86% had not been legally drunk. Reading a book and studying from school materials occupy the most time for students in a given week. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 59% lied to a friend or peer and 54% to an adult in the three months prior to the survey. 33% read a pornographic magazine. 28% gambled or bet money on something. 22% tried to hurt someone physically. 17% stole money or a material possession. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantitative (survey) research did not highlight violence as a severe problem, despite a project delay* following post election violence. But qualitative (focus group) research points to violence, latent anger, and abuse as themes to investigate more fully. This finding supports continued use of multiple research techniques.
Religious Background and Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 94% believe the universe was created by God. 89% report that prayer can change what happens. 87% agree that forgiveness of sins is only possible through faith in Jesus Christ. 80% have made a personal commitment to Jesus that is still relevant in their lives. 49% believe they will go to heaven because they confessed sins and accepted Jesus as savior. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60% believe all religions pray to the same God. 68% believe the Holy Spirit is only a symbol. 34% believe that the whole idea of sin is outdated. 42% believe Jesus did not physically return to life. 68% believe that good people earn a place in heaven. 39% believe in reincarnation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students who reported “a lot” of influence by other faiths: 24% new age, 14% Buddhism, 13% Islam, 9% traditional, 6% Hinduism, 14% other. While 81% believe the Bible describes moral truth, 63% believe in moral relativism and 60% that lying and rule-bending is sometimes necessary. Rural respondents were 13% more likely to think God is no longer personally involved in their lives.
Identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 53% of respondents report that they are somewhat or very satisfied with their lives. Respondents are most heavily influenced by the Bible and parents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16% of respondents had suicidal thoughts in the three months before the survey. 15% report that they are not at all satisfied with their lives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80% report that living with a high degree of integrity is very important for their future. There is clearly tension between this aspiration and reports that 59% lied in the months preceding the survey.