

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



Notes: Surveys were administered in randomly selected accessible schools. Inaccessible schools are those in conflict zones, areas of extremely low population or that cannot be reached by public transportation. Due to the distribution of this sample, overall attitudes, rural attitudes, and younger attitudes will all be weighted toward female respondents. **64% of respondents were aged 16 or more: the survey will skew towards older respondents.** Reported respondents are those who participated in the survey and answered the question. Not all participants answered all questions. SSWC was completed in March 2009 for OneHope by the Metadigm Group.

Lesotho	Positive Aspects	Negative Aspects	Key Notes
Family Relationships and Perspectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 59% of respondents report that they feel safe and loved at home. 46% live with both natural parents. 31% are very close to their fathers. 52% feel that fathers frequently show love for them. 57% are very close to their mothers. Female, urban, and younger students more often reported this. 72% feel that mothers frequently show love for them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 39% report that their father is not alive or that they do not know him. 21% report that their mother is not alive or that they do not know her. 13% report that both parents have died. 49% frequently wonder if their mothers love them. 39% frequently wonder if their fathers love them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nearly 20% accept that a cohabiting homosexual couple is a family. Males and urban and older youth were more likely to accept this. Younger subjects reported more often that their fathers are not alive. They also reported more often that they are close to him. A large subset of respondents indicated little communication with fathers. This may be affected by the number of fathers reported to have died.
Relationships with People of the Opposite Sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 83% expect to be very happy in their marriage. 78% of respondents agree that God intended marriage to last a lifetime. 68% would wait to have sex after they marry if they could change the past. 55% overall--70% of females and 35% of males--indicated that premarital sex for a couple in love is never acceptable. 56% want a marriage like their parents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 71% indicated that it is very hard to have a successful marriage these days. 58% do not wish to be a virgin when they marry. 33% of respondents have had sexual intercourse. 53% of males have had sexual intercourse. 43% of respondents learned a lot about sex from sex related books and magazines. Parents were least frequently indicated source, at 12%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Younger respondents indicated a lower value for virginity than their older peers. Females more often reported that they would avoid premarital sex if they could change the past, but they were not significantly more likely to "want to be a virgin at marriage." Rural youth more often wanted a marriage like their parents'. They were also more likely to expect marriage to end in divorce.
Behaviors and Beliefs in Daily Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 82% did not use tobacco in the three months before the survey was administered. 83% did not use illegal drugs. 79% had not been legally drunk. 44% spent 4 or more hours a week studying for school. 33% spent that much time reading a book and 30% reading the Bible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 63% had recently lied to a friend or peer. 57% had lied to a parent, teacher, or adult. 43% read a pornographic magazine. 36% gambled. 29% cheated. 25% stole. 45% say it's ok to break the law if no one is hurt. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Males reported more negative behavior than females in all categories except lying. Males significantly more likely to have used alcohol or drugs, viewed pornography, or to have tried to hurt someone physically. Urban youth had more often stolen or lied; they less often gambled or used drugs or pornography.
Religious Background and Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 81% agree that forgiveness of sins is only possible through faith in Jesus Christ. 81% believe that prayer can be effective in their lives. 76% said that Jesus was born to a virgin. 74% of respondents indicated that a close relationship with God is very important to their futures. 73% agree that those who do not accept Jesus will be condemned to hell. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 47% of respondents believe that the concept of sin is outdated. 76% believe that the Holy Spirit is only a symbol. 51% believe Jesus did not physically return to life. 73% believe all religions pray to the same God. 30% do not know what will happen when they die. 72% believe that a good person can earn a place in heaven. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respondents' thoughts and actions are most heavily influenced by the Bible and parents. Students who reported "a lot" of influence by other faiths include 14% Buddhism, 25% new age, 15% Islam, 19% indigenous faith or ancestor worship, 11% Hinduism, and 23% other. 81% of respondents have made a commitment to Jesus that is still relevant in their lives.
Identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 57% indicated that living with a high degree of integrity is very important to their futures. 51% of respondents report that they are very satisfied with their lives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 22% of respondents report that they had suicidal thoughts in the three months before the survey. 17% are not at all satisfied with their lives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural youth reported significantly more often that they had attempted suicide.