

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



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 composition of the sample set—4,091 students aged about 13 to 18, with 77% urban (as per population distribution)—indicates a hard skew toward urban attitudes. Data was collected from June to July 2009. SSWC was completed in September 2009 for OneHope by the Metadigm Group

Madagascar	Positive Aspects	Negative Aspects	Key Notes
Family Relationships and Perspectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 75% feel very close to their mothers. 59% feel very close to their fathers. 71% feel that mothers and 54% that fathers frequently show love for them. 70% report that the adults in their family frequently set good examples for them. 70% report an overall positive family experience. 68% of respondents report their parents as married. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 61% sometimes or frequently wonder if their mothers and 54% if their fathers love them. 48% almost never feel proud of their fathers. 38% almost never feel proud of their mothers. 25% spend no time in a typical week talking to fathers about things that really matter to them. 16% report their parents as divorced and separated or remarried. 13% report that their father is not alive or they do not know him. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 75% define a family traditionally—as people related by birth, marriage, or adoption. 9% and 12% believe that male and female cohabiting homosexual couples are a family. Urban and older youth report their parents as married 9% and 10% less often than their peers. Younger subjects report 17% more often than their older peers that they are very close to fathers. Only 26% agree that home is where they feel safe and loved.
Relationships with People of the Opposite Sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 86% believe God meant marriage to last a lifetime. 86% expect to be very happy in their marriage. 77% think that where children are involved, divorce is not acceptable. 77% do not expect that marriage will end in divorce. 77% would like to be a virgin when they marry. 71% indicated premarital sex for a couple in love is never acceptable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 67% agree that it is very hard to have a successful marriage these days. 57% would rather live with someone than marry. 48% of urban, 34% of older, 31% of male subjects, and 23% overall report that they have had intercourse. Classmates and friends are the most often reported source of information about sex. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural subjects are 24% more likely to feel most marriages are healthy and fulfilling. Urban youth are 20% more likely to anticipate divorce and to feel there is too much pressure to get married. Males and urban and older youth report twice, three times, and more than four times as often as females and rural and younger subjects respectively 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. 89% did not use tobacco. 88% did not try to physically hurt someone. The following have the most influence on subjects' thoughts and actions: the Bible (65%), the Christian faith (61%), parents (58%), and teachers (58%). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 74% lied to a friend or peer and 58% to an adult in the three months prior to the survey. 57% say it's ok to break the law if no one is hurt. 36% cheated on an exam or evaluation. 28% gambled or bet money on something. 22% viewed pornographic materials. 21% drank enough alcohol to be legally drunk. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Males are more likely to report that they gambled (by 25%), watched a pornographic movie (by 15%), and got drunk (by 15%). Urban and older subjects are more likely than their rural and younger peers to believe in rule-bending (by 23% and 17%) and that lying is sometimes necessary (by 16% and 12%).
Religious Background and Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 97% believe the universe was created by God and 70% that He is still involved in people's lives. 94% agree that forgiveness of sin is only possible through faith in Jesus Christ. 93% believe prayer is effective; 52% pray daily. 86% (of 96% responding) have made a personal commitment to Jesus that is still relevant in their lives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 91% believe the Holy Spirit is only a symbol. 83% believe good people earn a place in heaven. 70% believe in reincarnation. 61% believe all religions pray to the same God. 61% believe it doesn't matter which religion you follow—they all believe the same truths. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban subjects are 23% more likely to believe God is no longer involved in people's lives. 91% agree that the Bible provides moral truths that are the same for all people; but 69% believe truth means different things to different people, that no one can be sure they have the truth. 92% are sure God exists; 95% believe that ghosts may or do exist and influence life.
Identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 74% do not believe that a full and satisfying life is possible without the pursuit of spiritual maturity. 64% of respondents report that they are somewhat or very satisfied with their lives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14% are not at all satisfied with their lives. 15% of respondents report suicidal thoughts in the three months before the survey. Females reported this 13% more often than males. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The most indicated desirable conditions for the future are a close relationship with God, a clear purpose for living, and a degree.