

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



Notes: In the sample set of participants, 65% were 16 or 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 November 2008 for OneHope by the Metadigm Group.

Malawi	Positive Aspects	Negative Aspects	Key Notes
Family Relationships and Perspectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>59% of respondents report that their parents are married.</li> <li>52% live with both natural parents.</li> <li>46% are very close to their fathers.</li> <li>58% report that their fathers frequently show love for them.</li> <li>60% are very close to their mothers.</li> <li>74% feel that mothers frequently show love for them.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9% report that both parents have died.</li> <li>18% report that one parent has died.</li> <li>30% report that their fathers are not alive or that they do not know him.</li> <li>16% report that their mothers are not alive or that they do not know her.</li> <li>43% frequently wonder if their mothers and 37% if their fathers love them.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The number of respondents reporting that one or both parents have died seems the most significant indicator within family relationships.</li> <li>The high number of respondents indicating that their mothers frequently show their love seems to be in tension with the reports of those who frequently wonder if she loves them.</li> </ul>
Relationships with People of the Opposite Sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>88% expect to be very happy in their marriage.</li> <li>75% indicated that premarital sex for a couple in love is never acceptable.</li> <li>70% would like to be a virgin when they marry.</li> <li>67% do not believe that parents should get a divorce if there are children involved.</li> <li>59% want a marriage like their parents.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>24% of respondents have had sexual intercourse.</li> <li>29% of older students have had sexual intercourse.</li> <li>36% of males have had sexual intercourse.</li> <li>8% of respondents learned a lot about sex from their parents. Peers, books and magazines, textbooks, and TV and movies were more frequently indicated sources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A large majority of respondents indicate that they value virginity. Reports indicate that this is much more frequently the case with females.</li> <li>Males are three times as likely as females to have had sexual intercourse. Youth under 16 were just over half as likely as older youth to have done so.</li> </ul>
Behaviors and Beliefs in Daily Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>94% did not use an illegal drug in the three months before the survey was administered.</li> <li>95% did not use tobacco.</li> <li>87% had not been legally drunk.</li> <li>77% did not cheat on an exam or evaluation.</li> <li>41% spent 4 or more hours a week studying for school. 38% spent that much time reading a book and 33% reading the Bible.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>63% lied to a parent, teacher, or an adult in the three months prior to the survey.</li> <li>62% lied to a friend or peer.</li> <li>56% stole.</li> <li>51% read a pornographic magazine.</li> <li>48% say it's ok to break the law if no one is hurt.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reports of female vs. male behavior were considerably out of step with expectations. In most surveyed countries, males engaged more often than females in the activities noted below.</li> <li>Females were significantly more likely than males to have watched a pornographic movie or to have been drunk. They were slightly more likely to have used drugs, tobacco, or to have gambled.</li> </ul>
Religious Background and Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>92% of respondents indicated that a close relationship with God is very important to their futures.</li> <li>92% said that Jesus was born to a virgin.</li> <li>89% have made a personal commitment to Jesus that is still relevant in their lives.</li> <li>89% believe that they have a personal responsibility to share their faith.</li> <li>84% agree that forgiveness of sins is only possible through faith in Jesus Christ.</li> <li>53% pray and 36% read religious scriptures daily.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>90% are not sure or do not believe that God exists.</li> <li>83% said that Jesus was not a real person.</li> <li>54% believe Jesus did not physically return to life.</li> <li>40% believe that ghosts exist and influence life.</li> <li>42% agreed that other popular religious practices are helpful.</li> <li>71% believe that a good person can earn a place in heaven.</li> <li>75% believe all religions pray to the same God.</li> <li>85% do not believe that prayer can be practically effective.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is a sharp tension and some flat contradiction between respondents' agreement with many basic Christian tenets and their uncertainty or outright disbelief in others.</li> <li>Respondents' thoughts and actions are most heavily influenced by the Bible, the Christian faith, and by their parents.</li> <li>Students who reported "a lot" of influence by other faiths include 5% Buddhism, 12% new age, 11% Islam, 9% indigenous/traditional, 3% Hinduism, and 8% other.</li> </ul>
Identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>59% of respondents report that they are very satisfied with their lives.</li> <li>Only 8% report that they are not at all satisfied.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12% of respondents had suicidal thoughts in the three months before the survey.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>76% of students surveyed reported that living with a high degree of integrity is very important to their futures.</li> </ul>