

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



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—4,359 students aged about 13 to 18, with 55% female (population density and gender are proportional to the national population distribution) —indicates a skew towards female attitudes. Data was collected from October 2008 to July 2009. SSWC was completed in September 2009 for OneHope by the Metadigm Group.

Mexico	Positive Aspects	Negative Aspects	Key Notes
Family Relationships and Perspectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>76% report an overall positive family experience.</li> <li>73% of respondents report their parents as married.</li> <li>70% feel that mothers and 53% that fathers frequently show love for them.</li> <li>59% report that they feel safe and loved at home.</li> <li>47% almost never wonder if their fathers and 43% if their mothers love them.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>27% spend no time or less than 5 minutes weekly talking to fathers about things that matter.</li> <li>23% agree that cohabiting homosexual couples are a family. This increases with population density.</li> <li>19% report that their parents have been divorced.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only 20% of respondents favored a traditional description of family (those related by birth, adoption, or marriage).</li> <li>Younger subjects are 15% more likely than older youth to feel very close to their fathers.</li> <li>Semi-urban and urban subjects are 15% and 17% more likely than rural subjects to report being very close to their mothers.</li> </ul>
Relationships with People of the Opposite Sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>86% expect to be very happy in their marriage.</li> <li>84% believe God meant marriage to last a lifetime.</li> <li>76% do not expect that marriage will end in divorce.</li> <li>63% would like to be a virgin when they marry.</li> <li>50% indicate that premarital sex for a couple in love is never acceptable.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>58% agree that it is very hard to have a successful marriage these days.</li> <li>55% think that where children are involved, divorce is acceptable.</li> <li>50% do not want a marriage like their parents'.</li> <li>35% would rather live with someone than marry.</li> <li>21% have had sexual intercourse.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As population density decreases, subjects are more likely to think parents should not get divorced if children are involved in the marriage.</li> <li>33% of youth 16 and over (vs. 11% of younger subjects) and 29% of males (vs. 15% of females) report that they have had intercourse.</li> <li>Males are 35% less likely than females to want to be virgins when they marry.</li> </ul>
Behaviors and Beliefs in Daily Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>91% report that they did not use an illegal drug in the three months before the survey.</li> <li>89% did not steal money or a material possession.</li> <li>82% did not try to physically hurt someone.</li> <li>79% did not try to emotionally hurt someone.</li> <li>Parents are the greatest reported influence on respondents' thoughts and actions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>63% lied to a friend or peer or to an adult in the three months prior to the survey.</li> <li>59% say it's ok to break the law if no one is hurt.</li> <li>42% cheated on an exam or evaluation.</li> <li>34% gambled or bet money on something.</li> <li>23% used tobacco.</li> <li>21% viewed a pornographic movie.</li> <li>20% drank enough alcohol to be legally drunk.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Male are about 18% more likely than females to have gambled or read a pornographic magazine.</li> <li>Semi-urban subjects report less frequent participation in all undesirable behaviors (except lying to friends) than other populations.</li> <li>Youth under 16 are half or less likely than their older peers to have used tobacco or been legally drunk.</li> </ul>
Religious Background and Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* 79% have made a personal commitment to Jesus that is still relevant in their lives.</li> <li>* 73% report that forgiveness from sin is only possible through Jesus Christ.</li> <li>* 61% believe in the efficacy of prayer.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* 72% believe the Holy Spirit is only a symbol.</li> <li>* 67% believe good people earn a place in heaven.</li> <li>63% rarely read the Bible or religious scriptures.</li> <li>* 59% believe all religions pray to the same God.</li> <li>* 55% don't believe in Jesus' physical resurrection.</li> <li>45% do not believe God is the all-powerful creator of the universe who rules the world today.</li> <li>* 42% believe in reincarnation.</li> <li>* 42% believe Jesus sinned like other people.</li> <li>* 40% believe the idea of sin is outdated.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>About 7 of 10 feel that faith is very important in their lives and that the universe was originally created by God; but they also agree that you sometimes need to bend the rules, that lying is sometimes necessary, that the Bible/Koran do not provide practical standards for living, that truth means different things to different people, and that morality is what works in life.</li> <li>67% of respondents self-identify as Roman Catholic and 11% as Protestant. Only 17% report the Christian faith has great influence in their lives.</li> </ul>
Identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>88% of respondents report that they are somewhat or very satisfied with their lives.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>18% of respondents report suicidal thoughts in the three months before the survey.</li> <li>12% are not at all or not very satisfied with their lives.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>48% believe that a full and satisfying life is possible without the pursuit of spiritual maturity.</li> <li>The most indicated desirable conditions for the future are good health and close friendships.</li> </ul>

\* About half of all subjects who participated in this survey responded to these questions.