

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



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—2,222 students aged about 13 to 18, with 56% female and 62% under 16 (population density and gender are proportional to the national population distribution) —indicates a skew towards female and younger attitudes. Data was collected from November 2007 to September 2009. SSWC was completed in September 2009 for OneHope by the Metadigm Group.

Panama	Positive Aspects	Negative Aspects	Key Notes
Family Relationships and Perspectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 82% feel that mothers and 66% that fathers frequently show love for them. 81% report that the adults in their family set good examples for them. 80% report an overall positive family experience. 75% feel very close to mothers and 54% to fathers. 65% live with both natural parents. 51% of respondents report their parents as married. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 54% sometimes or frequently wonder if their mothers love them. 48% sometimes or frequently wonder if their fathers love them. 31% spend less than 5 minutes weekly talking to their fathers about things that matter to them. Of these, more than half spend no time at all. 25% report that their parents are divorced. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only 18% of respondents favor a traditional description of family—those related by birth, adoption, or marriage. 67% define family as any group or person you love and care for. Only 7%, however, accept cohabiting homosexual couples as families. 60% report that home is where they feel safe and loved. Younger subjects report this 9% more often than their older peers.
Relationships with People of the Opposite Sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 94% believe God meant marriage to last a lifetime. 89% expect to be very happy in their marriage. 84% of all respondents have not had intercourse. 78% do not expect that marriage will end in divorce. 75% would like to be a virgin when they marry. 63% indicate 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. 47% think that where children are involved, divorce is acceptable. 45% do not want a marriage like their parents'. 36% would rather live with someone than marry. 25% of males and older youth have had sex. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Younger subjects are 14% more likely to want a marriage like their parents'; but they are also 9% more likely to condone divorce. Females 26% more often want to be a virgin until marriage; they 16% more often admire single life. Males are twice as likely to report that premarital sex for couples in love is always acceptable.
Behaviors and Beliefs in Daily Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 96% report that they did not use an illegal drug in the three months before the survey. 92% did not use tobacco. 91% did not try to physically hurt someone. 90% did not steal money or a material possession. 89% had not been legally drunk. 87% did not try to emotionally hurt someone. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 74% believe that you have to bend the rules to your own benefit to get by. 59% lied to a friend or peer and 58% to an adult in the three months prior to the survey. 56% say it's ok to break the law if no one is hurt. 40% cheated on an exam or evaluation. 23% viewed a pornographic movie. 21% gambled or bet money on something. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bible, parents, and the Christian faith are reported as the greatest influences on subjects' thoughts and actions. 72% believe something is morally and ethically right if it works in their lives. Males report more often than females that they viewed pornography (by 29%), gambled (by 17%), stole (by 8%), and got drunk (by 8%).
Religious Background and Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * 95% have made a personal commitment to Jesus that is still relevant in their lives. 91% agree the Bible provides a clear description of moral truth. 91% believe the universe was created by God. 86% agree that forgiveness of sins is only possible through faith in Jesus Christ. 81% believe in the efficacy of prayer. 73% agree that God is the all-powerful, ruling creator. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 95% are not sure if God exists. 91% believe the Bible/Koran does not provide practical standards for living. 75% believe the Holy Spirit is only a symbol. 71% believe good people earn a place in heaven. 53% deny Jesus' physical resurrection. 45% think the whole idea of sin is outdated. 38% believe in reincarnation. 26% do not know what will happen after they die. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 79% report that a close relationship with God is very important to their futures. 10 times more respondents indicated a sure belief in ghosts than in God. 53% believe all religions pray to the same God. 82% of subjects state that the Bible offers absolute moral truths that are the same for all people in all situations; 75% indicate that truths can be contradictory and still be correct.
Identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 90% of subjects report they are somewhat or very satisfied with their lives. Only 3% are not at all satisfied. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12% of respondents report suicidal thoughts in the three months before the survey. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The most indicated desirable conditions for the future are a degree and good physical health. 40% say the pursuit of spiritual development is not necessary for a full and satisfying life

* 83% of survey participants responded to this question.