

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



Notes: Surveys were administered in randomly selected accessible schools in Cape Town and Western Cape. In Free State the survey was administered at schools where educators were already participating in another OneHope program. Inaccessible schools are those in conflict zones or areas of extremely low population, those that cannot be reached by public transportation, or where research was not authorized. Reported respondents are those who participated in the survey and answered the question. Not all participants answered all questions. SSWC was completed in December 2009 for OneHope by the Metadigm Group.

South Africa	Positive Aspects	Negative Aspects	Key Notes
Family Relationships and Perspectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>75% of students report that their family experience has been positive.</li> <li>68% feel that mothers frequently show love for them.</li> <li>63% report a very close relationship to their mothers.</li> <li>60% said that home is where they feel safe and loved.</li> <li>48% frequently feel proud of their fathers.</li> <li>43% feel that fathers frequently show love for them.</li> <li>48% of respondents report that their parents are married.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>59% of respondents reported they sometimes or frequently wonder if their mothers love them.</li> <li>59% never or almost never talk to their fathers about personal concerns.</li> <li>26% report that their fathers have died or that they do not know them.</li> <li>23% reported their parents are divorced or separated.</li> <li>20% report that one or both parents have died.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More rural than urban or semi-urban subjects indicate that their parents are married.</li> <li>Semi-urban subjects report more often than rural or urban respondents that one or both parents have died.</li> <li>Most subjects consider a heterosexual cohabiting couple with children (74%) and an unmarried woman and her children (73%) to be a family.</li> <li>17-20% of respondents consider cohabiting homosexual couples to be families.</li> </ul>
Relationships with People of the Opposite Sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>88% said they will be very happy in their marriage.</li> <li>88% agree that God intended marriage to last a lifetime.</li> <li>70% of respondents have not had sexual intercourse.</li> <li>62% would like to be a virgin when they marry.</li> <li>56% indicated that premarital sex for a couple in love is never acceptable. Females reported this 17% more often than male respondents.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>74% agree that it is very hard to have a successful marriage these days and 47% believe that divorce is acceptable where children are involved.</li> <li>42% of older and urban students report that they have had sexual intercourse.</li> <li>41% of males report the same.</li> <li>27% of respondents learned a lot about sex from TV or movies, the most frequently indicated source. Parents were the least reported source.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Responses from female respondents indicated a significantly greater value for virginity. Urban students indicated a lower value for virginity than rural or semi-urban respondents.</li> <li>Students aged 16 years and older were more than twice as likely to have had sexual intercourse.</li> <li>Urban students were less accepting of divorce where children are involved.</li> </ul>
Behaviors and Beliefs in Daily Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents, the Bible, and Christianity were the greatest reported influences in respondent's lives.</li> <li>86% report that they did not use an illegal drug in the three months before the survey was administered.</li> <li>82% did not cheat on an exam or evaluation.</li> <li>78% did not steal money or any material possession.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>62% report lying to a friend or peer and 58% to an adult in the three months prior to the survey.</li> <li>36% viewed a pornographic movie. Males reported this 15% more often than females.</li> <li>33% had been legally drunk; 30% used tobacco.</li> <li>30% tried to hurt someone physically.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>68% agree that something is morally or ethically right if it works in their lives. 40% agree that it's ok to break the law if no one is hurt.</li> <li>Younger students more often reported trying to hurt someone; those 16 and over more often reported drinking or viewing pornography.</li> </ul>
Religious Background and Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>88% believe that God created the universe.</li> <li>85% report that prayer can change what happens.</li> <li>84% report that they made a personal commitment to Jesus that is still relevant in their lives.</li> <li>79% of respondents indicated that a close relationship with God is very important to their futures.</li> <li>34% believe they will go to heaven because they confessed sins and accepted Jesus as savior.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>64% believe all religions pray to the same God.</li> <li>76% believe the Holy Spirit is only a symbol.</li> <li>53% believe Jesus did not physically return to life.</li> <li>52% agreed that all religions teach equally valid truths.</li> <li>20% do not know what will happen when they die.</li> <li>33% believe that the whole idea of sin is outdated.</li> <li>64% believe good people earn a place in heaven.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>While 78-83% of respondents believe the Bible describes moral truth, 67-69% believe in moral relativism and 64% that lying and rule-bending is sometimes necessary.</li> <li>Students who reported "a lot" of influence by other faiths: 17% traditional, 13% new age, 12% Islam, 7% Buddhism, 5% Hinduism, 10% other.</li> </ul>
Identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>80% of respondents report that they are somewhat or very satisfied with their lives.</li> <li>Only 7% report that they are not at all satisfied.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>28% of respondents had suicidal thoughts in the three months before the survey.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>62% report that living with a high degree of integrity is very important for their future. There is some tension between this aspiration and reports that 62% lied in the months preceding the survey.</li> </ul>