

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



Notes: 46% of respondents were male and 54% female, weighting the overall responses slightly toward female respondents. 38.3% were 15 years of age and younger and 61.7% were 16 years of age and older, weighting overall responses towards older respondents. 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 October 2007 for OneHope by the Metadigm Group.

Swaziland	Positive Aspects	Negative Aspects	Key Notes
Family Relationships and Perspectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 63% of respondents feel they are very close to their mothers. 37% feel they are very close to their fathers. 57% feel that mothers frequently show love for them. 36% feel that fathers frequently show love for them. 58% said that home is where they feel safe and loved. Younger students reported this more often than older respondents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only 36% of respondents live with both their natural parents. 34% report that their fathers have died or that they do not know them. 16% report that their mothers have died or that they do not know them. 8% report that both parents have died. Only 9% of females report that they are very close to their fathers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Youth indicate that the adults in their family are interested in who they are, demonstrate love, set good examples, and spend time with them. Mothers are reported as closer than fathers to the respondents. But 39% of participants, 9% more than with fathers, frequently wonder if their mothers love them. Rural youth were more likely than urban respondents to report that at home they sometimes feel loved and at other times do not.
Relationships with People of the Opposite Sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 86% expect to be very happy in their marriage. 78% agree that God intended marriage to last a lifetime. 57% indicated that premarital sex for a couple in love is never acceptable. 68% would like to be a virgin when they marry. 81% of respondents have not had sexual intercourse. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 71% believe it is very hard to have a successful marriage these days. 49% did not agree that parents should not get a divorce if children are involved. 29% would very likely have intercourse with a partner that they intend to marry. 27% of males have had sexual intercourse. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Males were about 2.5 times more likely than females to have had intercourse. Males and urban and younger students were more likely to approve of premarital intercourse for couples in love. The most often reported source from which respondents learned about sex is TV or movies. Parents were the least reported source.
Behaviors and Beliefs in Daily Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 89% did not use an illegal drug in the three months before the survey was administered. 88% did not use tobacco. 83% had not been legally drunk. 82% did not steal. Parents were the greatest reported influence in respondent's lives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 59% believe that lying is sometimes necessary. 49% lied to a friend or peer in the three months prior to the survey. 45% lied to a parent, teacher, or an adult. 43% viewed a pornographic magazine. 25% gambled. 46% say it's ok to break the law if no one is hurt. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Males were more likely than females to have gambled or to have tried to hurt someone. I It is of interest that the incidence of cheating, at 27%, is so much lower than that of lying. 59% could recall a time when their religious beliefs affected their behavior. But 58% said that whatever works in their lives is morally right.
Religious Background and Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 83% said that God created the universe and still rules. 79% said forgiveness for sin comes only through faith in Jesus. 79% believe in the virgin birth of Jesus. 78% believe that prayer can be effective. 77% of respondents indicated that a close relationship with God is very important to their futures. 69% agree that the Bible provides absolute moral truths that are the same for all people in all situations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 48% are not sure if God exists. 46% do not believe in Jesus' physical resurrection. 39% believe that the idea of sin is outdated. 43% believe in reincarnation. 65% believe that all faiths pray to the same God. 73% said that the Holy Spirit is not a living being. 70% believe that ghosts may or do exist. 63% said that moral truth means different things to different people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-Christian faiths with a lot of influence on respondents follow: 10% Buddhism, 10% new age, 9% Islam, 11% indigenous faith or ancestor worship, 6% Hinduism, and 12% other. Females were 11% more likely to report that they would go to heaven because they accepted Jesus and 11% more likely to be Protestant. 74% had made a personal commitment to Jesus. But only 42% believe they will go to heaven because they confessed sins and accepted Him.
Identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 52% of respondents report that they are very satisfied with their lives. 44% reported that living with a high degree of integrity is very important to their futures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 23% of respondents had suicidal thoughts in the three months before the survey. 12% report that they are not at all satisfied with their lives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural respondents were significantly more likely than their urban counterparts to have considered suicide.