

Spiritual State of the World’s Children: Summary Table, Thailand



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—4,238 students aged about 13 to 18, with 65% rural (population density and gender are proportional to the national population distribution) —indicates a skew towards rural attitudes. Data was collected from June to August 2010. SSWC was completed in November 2010 for OneHope by the Metadigm Group.

Thailand	Positive Aspects	Negative Aspects	Key Notes
Family Relationships and Perspectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 83% report an overall positive family experience. 77% feel very close to their mothers. 75% of respondents report their parents as married. 58% feel that mothers frequently show love for them. 54% feel very close to their fathers. Younger and male subjects are 6-7% more likely to feel this way. 46% feel that fathers frequently show love for them. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40% sometimes or frequently wonder if their mothers or fathers love them. 38% almost never talk to their fathers about personal concerns. 18% report that their parents have been divorced. 6% report that one or both parents have died. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 68% said home is where they feel safe and loved. 24% of respondents favor a traditional description of family—those related by birth, adoption, or marriage. 64% agree that family is any person or group they love and care about deeply. 21-22% consider cohabiting homosexual couples to be families. Older subjects are 5-7% more likely to agree with this perspective.
Relationships with People of the Opposite Sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 90% of respondents have not had sexual intercourse. 86% believe most marriages are healthy and fulfilling. 85% expect to be very happy in their marriage. 78% indicate premarital sex for a couple in love is never acceptable. 77% think that where children are involved, divorce is not acceptable. 75% do not expect that marriage will end in divorce. 73% would like to be a virgin when they marry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 69% agree that it is very hard to have a successful marriage these days. 35% do not want a marriage like their parents’. 31% would rather live with someone than marry. Males are nearly twice and older subjects nearly three times as likely as their females and younger peers to have had intercourse. Parents were the least reported source of information about sex. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Females more often feel it is very hard to have a successful marriage (by 13%) and admire single life (by 18%). They less often want a marriage like their parents’ (by 9%), yet more often wish to be a virgin when they marry (by 27%). Rural subjects 6% more often admire single life and agree that marriage will end in divorce. Younger subjects more often accept that marriage will end in divorce (by 6%).
Behaviors and Beliefs in Daily Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 94% report that they did not use an illegal drug in the three months before the survey. 91% did not steal money or a material possession. 90% did not use tobacco. 81% did not try to hurt someone physically, and 77% did not try to hurt someone emotionally. Parents are the greatest reported influence on subjects’ thoughts and actions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 82% agree that lying is sometimes necessary. 77% say it’s ok to break the law if no one is hurt. 66% lied to a friend or peer and 44% to an adult in the three months prior to the survey. 35% cheated on an exam or evaluation. 30% watched a pornographic movie. 29% gambled or bet money on something. 16% had been legally drunk. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Males are 30% more likely than females to have watched an x-rated movie. They are more likely to have gambled (by 19%), used tobacco (by 14%), or been drunk or tried to physically hurt someone (both by 12%). Urban participants were more likely than their rural counterparts to report having cheated on an exam (by 13%) and lied to an adult (by 10%).
Religious Background and Practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 86% believe God may or does exist. * 79% believe in the efficacy of prayer. 58% agree that the Bible provides a clear description of moral truth. * 47% have made a personal commitment to Jesus that is still relevant in their lives. 34% believe the universe was created by God. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 85% believe ghosts may exist and influence life. 81% believe all religions teach equally valid truths. * 68% believe good people earn a place in heaven. 56% do not know what will happen after they die. * 44% believe in reincarnation. * 41% believe all religions pray to the same God. * 36% do not believe Jesus was a real person. Only 8% attend religious services weekly. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 88% of respondents self-identify as Buddhist. Reading the Bible or a religious book occupies the least time for students in a given week. 76% report that in matters of morals and ethics no one can be sure they know the truth. Males are 7% more likely to believe they will go to heaven for having been good persons. Females are 14% less likely to know what will happen when they die. Older subjects are 7% less likely to know.
Identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 88% of respondents report that they are somewhat or very satisfied with their lives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14% of respondents report suicidal thoughts in the three months before the survey. Females reported this 4% more often than males. 12% are not at all or not very satisfied with life. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 59% believe that a full and satisfying life is possible without the pursuit of spiritual maturity. The most indicated desirable conditions for the future are good health and a high paying job.

* Less than 7% of the sample responded to the questions regarding Christian theology and practices.