

# Spiritual State of the World’s Children: Summary Table, USA, African American Youth



Notes: Surveys were administered online. African Americans composed 17.8% of the total USA sample. The composition of the sample set—911 youth aged 13 to 18, with 62% 16 to 18 and 59% female—indicates a skew towards older and female attitudes. Data was collected from August to October 2010. SSWC was completed in January 2011 for OneHope by the Metadigm Group.

| USA African American                          | Positive Aspects   | Negative Aspects   | Key Notes  |
|---|--|--|--|
| Family Relationships and Perspectives         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>68% feel that mothers frequently show love for them.</li> <li>66% feel very close to their mothers. (33% feel very close to their fathers.)</li> <li>63% spend an hour or more weekly talking to mothers about things that really matter to them. 27% report the same of their fathers.</li> <li>51% often talk with mothers about personal concerns (only 19% report the same of fathers).</li> <li>43% of respondents report their parents as married.</li> <li>40% feel that fathers frequently show love for them.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>41% to 42% consider a cohabiting homosexual couple a family.</li> <li>35% live with a single parent or step-parent; another 3% live with a grandparent.</li> <li>29% report that their parents have been divorced.</li> <li>16% report that their parents never married.</li> <li>10% report their father is not alive or they do not know him. 14% are not at all close to their fathers.</li> <li>27% sometimes or frequently wonder if their mothers and 26% if their fathers love them.</li> </ul>                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>85% report an overall positive family experience.</li> <li>64% say home is where they feel safe and loved.</li> <li>48% subscribe to a traditional definition of family—those related by birth, marriage, or adoption; 44% define family as any person or group they care deeply about.</li> <li>42% spend 15 minutes or less per week talking to fathers about things that really matter to them.</li> <li>Younger subjects (by 13%) and males (by 8%) report more often being very close to their fathers.</li> </ul> |
| Relationships with People of the Opposite Sex | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>92% expect to be very happy in their marriage.</li> <li>86% believe God meant marriage to last a lifetime.</li> <li>82% do not expect that marriage will end in divorce.</li> <li>53% want a marriage like their parents’.</li> <li>51% indicate premarital sex for a couple in love is never acceptable.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>73% think that where children are involved divorce is acceptable.</li> <li>67% agree that it is very hard to have a successful marriage these days.</li> <li>35% of older youth and 26% overall report that they have had sexual intercourse.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents are the most reported source of information about sex.</li> <li>39% do not wish to be a virgin when they marry.</li> <li>Females are more likely (by 24%) to want to be a virgin when they marry.</li> </ul>  |
| Behaviors and Beliefs in Daily Life           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>92% report that they did not use an illegal drug in the three months before the survey.</li> <li>89% did not try to physically hurt someone.</li> <li>87% did not cheat on an exam or evaluation.</li> <li>81% believe it is not ok to break the law—even if no one is hurt.</li> <li>Parents are reported to be the greatest influence on participants’ thoughts and actions.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>56% lied to an adult and 55% to a friend or peer in the three months prior to the survey.</li> <li>23% watched a pornographic movie.</li> <li>14% drank enough alcohol legally drunk.</li> <li>11% used tobacco.</li> <li>12% stole money or a material possession.</li> <li>Reading the Bible is the least reported use of participants’ time in a typical week.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Older participants are more likely to have watched a pornographic movie (by 14%), been drunk (by 14%), used tobacco (by 11%), or used illegal drugs (by 5%).</li> <li>52% believe that you sometimes have to bend the rules to your own benefit to get by.</li> <li>49% know that something is morally or ethically right if it works in their lives.</li> </ul>  |
| Religious Background and Practice             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>77% agree that the universe was created by God.</li> <li>75% indicate that the Bible/Koran provides a practical standard for living today.</li> <li>66% report that faith is very important in their lives.</li> <li>42% believe they will go to heaven because they confessed their sins and accepted Jesus as savior.</li> <li>* 88% believe prayer is effective. Only 33% pray daily.</li> <li>* 82% believe forgiveness of sins is only possible through faith in Jesus Christ.</li> </ul>                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>40% do not agree that the Bible provides a clear and indisputable description of moral truth.</li> <li>37% rarely attend religious services.</li> <li>36% believe all religions teach equally valid truths.</li> <li>26% are not sure or do not believe God exists.</li> <li>26% do not know what will happen after they die.</li> <li>* 79% believe the Holy Spirit is only a symbol.</li> <li>* 54% believe all religions pray to the same God.</li> <li>* 53% believe good people earn a place in heaven.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>65% agree that moral truth means different things to different people and that no one can be sure they know the truth.</li> <li>48% believe the pursuit of spiritual maturity is not necessary for a full and satisfying life.</li> <li>16% overall believe God created humans but is no longer involved in their lives</li> <li>* 38% deny Jesus’ physical resurrection.</li> <li>* 17% believe in reincarnation.</li> </ul>   |
| Identity                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>90% of respondents report that they are somewhat or very satisfied with their lives.</li> <li>47% report that having a close relationship with God is very important in their futures.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9% of subjects report suicidal thoughts in the three months before the survey.</li> <li>10% are not at all or not too satisfied with their lives.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A clear purpose for living and a high degree of integrity are among the most desired condition for participants’ futures.</li> </ul>  |

\* About two-thirds of subjects responded to these questions.