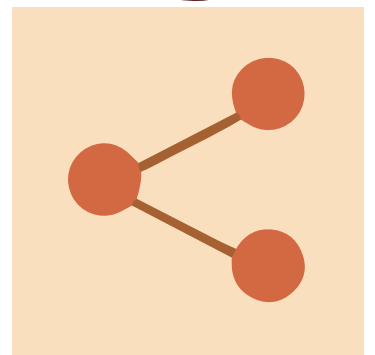
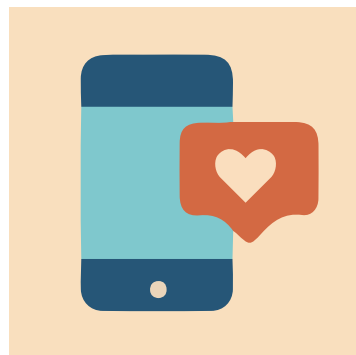


# GLOBAL YOUTH CULTURE

## *Latin America Report*



# Table of Contents

**3** INTRODUCTION

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**6** RELIGIOUS ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIORS

**19** PERSONAL EXPERIENCES AND STRUGGLES

**30** DIGITAL CONNECTEDNESS AND IMPACT

**38** IDENTITY AND RELATIONSHIPS

**50** INFLUENCES AND GUIDING VOICES

**60** LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

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**63** ABOUT ONEHOPE

**63** METHODOLOGY

# INTRODUCTION

Each new generation is unique in its own way, and research can help us understand how the world looks through different eyes. The world's current generation of teens and young adults is sometimes called Generation Z. Across Latin America and Spain, there are nearly 30 million Generation Z teens ages 13-19 comprising about 11% of the population.<sup>1</sup>

This research reveals the habits, struggles, beliefs and influences of teens across the Latin America region, specifically in the countries of Argentina, Colombia, Mexico, and Spain. It also reveals teens' views of God, Jesus, the Bible, and the church. This data is part of a larger global study that surveyed teens across 20 countries. We believe this study is the most comprehensive of its kind in terms of taking a deep look at the faith of this generation. The thousands of data points we collected create a picture of this global generation including the values they share, the struggles they face, and what teens are looking to for answers and hope.

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1 United Nations Population Division, Total Population Database, <https://population.un.org/wpp/DataQuery/> Accessed August 2020.

# ABOUT THE GLOBAL STUDY



20 Countries



14 Languages



8,394 Digitally  
Connected Teens



Ages  
13-19



70 Item  
Survey



**AFRICA:** Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa (1,275 teens surveyed)

**ASIA:** China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Vietnam (2,100 teens surveyed)

**EURASIA:** Egypt, The Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Spain, The United Kingdom (2,936 teens surveyed)

**LATIN AMERICA:** Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico (1,673 teens surveyed)

**NORTH AMERICA:** United States (410 teens surveyed)

Though united by language, these four countries are quite different and have their own history, culture, beliefs, and opinions that have shaped the current generation. Each country's young people are obviously distinct and this research highlights some of those differences.

We hope you not only learn something new, but that your mind and heart are moved to action on behalf of this generation who so need the hope of the Gospel in their lives. Every statistic in this study represents many individual teens with their own sets of hopes, fears, and daily challenges. Each of those teens has a name, a story, and an eternal destiny. OneHope is dedicated to affecting those destinies by reaching every young person in every country with God's Word.

# ABOUT THE TEENS

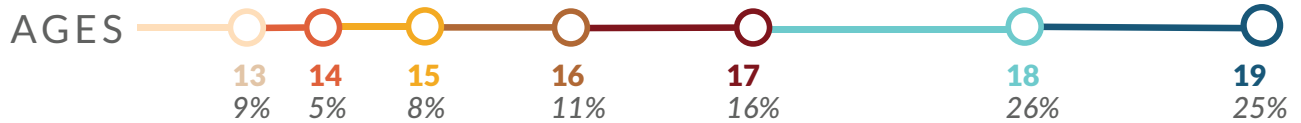
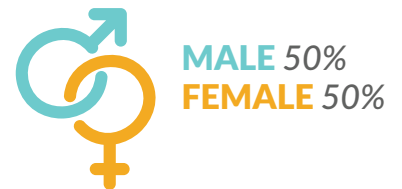
**TOTAL: 1673 TEENS SURVEYED**

**ARGENTINA:** 420 teens surveyed

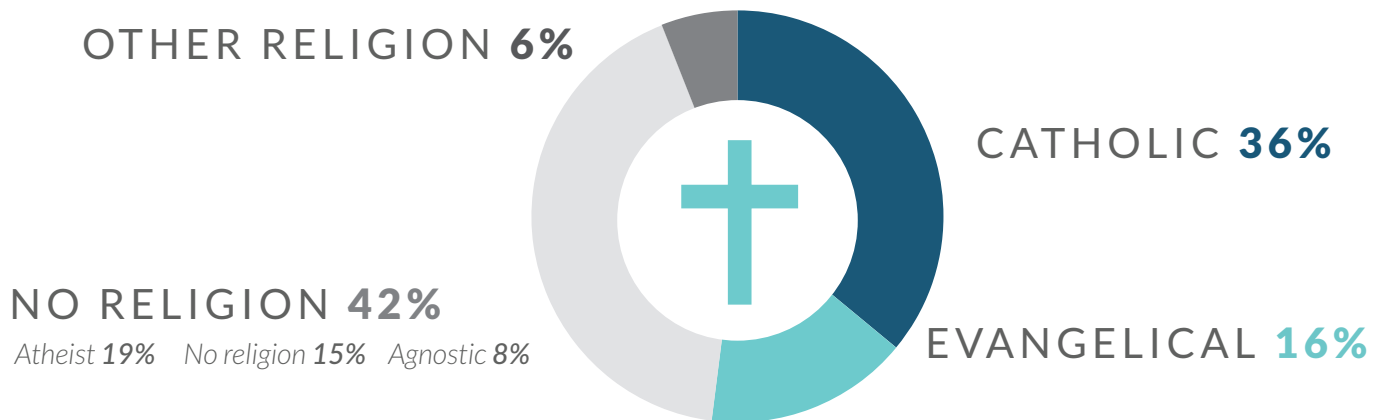
**COLOMBIA:** 413 teens surveyed

**MEXICO:** 420 teens surveyed

**SPAIN:** 420 teens surveyed



## REGIONAL RELIGIOUS IDENTITY



# RELIGIOUS ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIORS

---

LATIN AMERICA AND SPAIN

# What We Discovered

## TEENS REGIONALLY...



**63%** of teens say they **never read religious scripture** on their own.<sup>1</sup>



**4 in 5** teens who don't go to church say they are **open to attending if invited**.



**Half** (51%) of teens believe all religions teach **equally valid truths**.

Nearly half of non-religious teens say spirituality is an important part of their identity and **most say the Christians they know are kind and caring**.



**3 in 5** teens (61%) say their faith beliefs or **spiritual journey are an important part of their identity**.



## CHRISTIAN TEENS...

**16%** of teens surveyed across the four countries identified as Evangelical and **36%** as Catholic.



Just **3%** of teens were discovered to be **Committed Christians**.<sup>2</sup>



**2 in 5** Evangelical teens say they **never read their Bible**, and only 1 in 5 read it at least weekly.

**Nearly 3 in 10** Evangelical teens say they **never go to church**, and the same number said they did not attend a children's ministry.



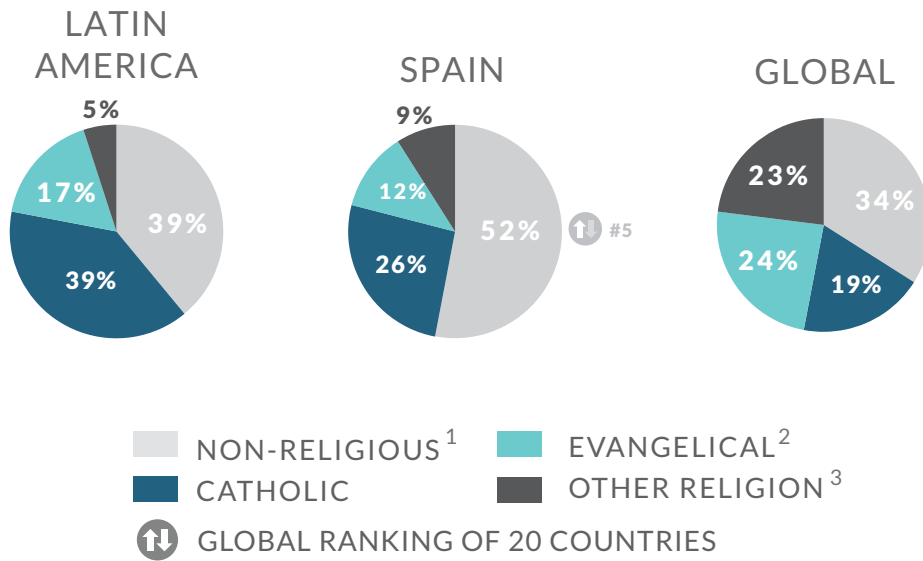
<sup>1</sup> Religious literature includes in this case, the Bible, the Koran, etc.

<sup>2</sup> Of Committed Christians, the majority were Evangelical (63%) and the remainder (37%) self-identified as Catholic.

# Religious Attitudes and Behaviors

This research study was uniquely comprehensive in examining the role faith and religion play in the lives of the next generation. How important do they say a spiritual journey is to them? How are they putting their beliefs into practice? We knew we wanted to explore the religious attitudes and behaviors of today's teens and the impact of those on other areas of their lives.

## RELIGIOUS IDENTITY



Across the region, most teens (52%) identified as Christian, with Catholics being more than twice as numerous as Evangelicals. However, a large number of teens (42%) identified as non-religious, a category which includes atheists and agnostics.

Teens are divided on whether or not truth is exclusive to any one religion. Half of teens in Latin America say they believe all religions teach equally valid truths, a viewpoint this generation shares with teens around the globe.

## ALL RELIGIONS TEACH EQUALLY VALID TRUTHS



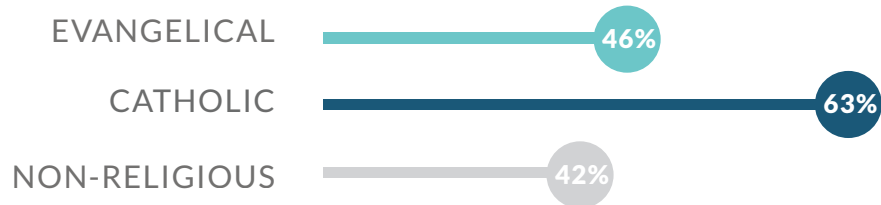
<sup>1</sup> Teens who self-identify as atheists, agnostics, or none of the above.

<sup>2</sup> Teens who identified themselves as Christians, but not as Catholics, Jehovah's Witnesses, or Mormons.

<sup>3</sup> Teens who identify themselves as Buddhist, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, or of another religion.



## ALL RELIGIONS TEACH EQUALLY VALID TRUTHS



Teens may say they are not religious, however, this does not mean that spirituality is unimportant to them. Nearly half of non-religious teens (46%) agree that their faith beliefs or spiritual journey are an important part of their identity, showing that many of today's young people separate spirituality from religion.




THREE IN FIVE TEENS SAY THEIR FAITH BELIEFS OR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY ARE AN IMPORTANT PART OF THEIR IDENTITY.

## Understanding Non-Religious Teens

Many teens in our study (42%) said they have no religion or identified themselves as atheist or agnostic. However, though these young people reject a religious identification, they are not necessarily hostile towards faith. Rather, they are observed to be quite spiritually open and have a positive outlook on Christianity and the Church.

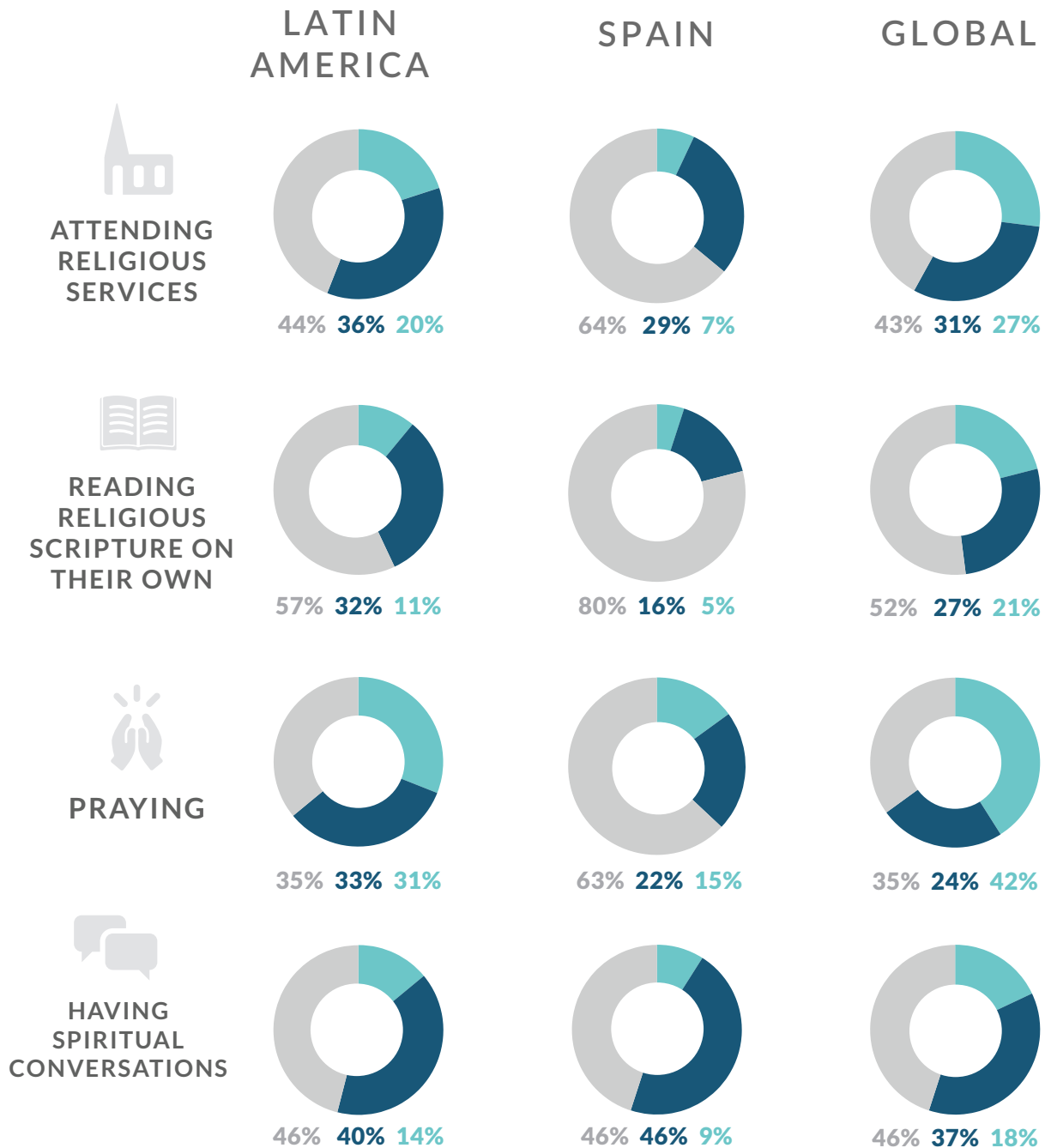
- **46%** say their faith beliefs or spiritual journey are an important part of their identity.
- **60%** say the Christians they know are kind and caring.
- **71%** would consider coming to church if someone invited them.
- **42%** believe all religions teach equally valid truths
- **40%** would change their mind about a religious belief if they had a personal experience such as an answer to prayer.

Non-religious teens are primarily apathetic, rather than hostile, in their attitudes towards God, Jesus, and the Bible.

VIEW OF GOD	VIEW OF JESUS	VIEW OF THE BIBLE
 <p><b>36%</b> I never think about God.</p> <p><b>33%</b> I believe in cosmic forces like good and evil but not in a personal God.</p>	 <p><b>44%</b> I never think about Jesus.</p> <p><b>6%</b> Jesus is an ancient myth that may be harmful.</p>	 <p><b>39%</b> I never think about the Bible.</p> <p><b>26%</b> it is an ancient text that creates more problems than it solves.</p>

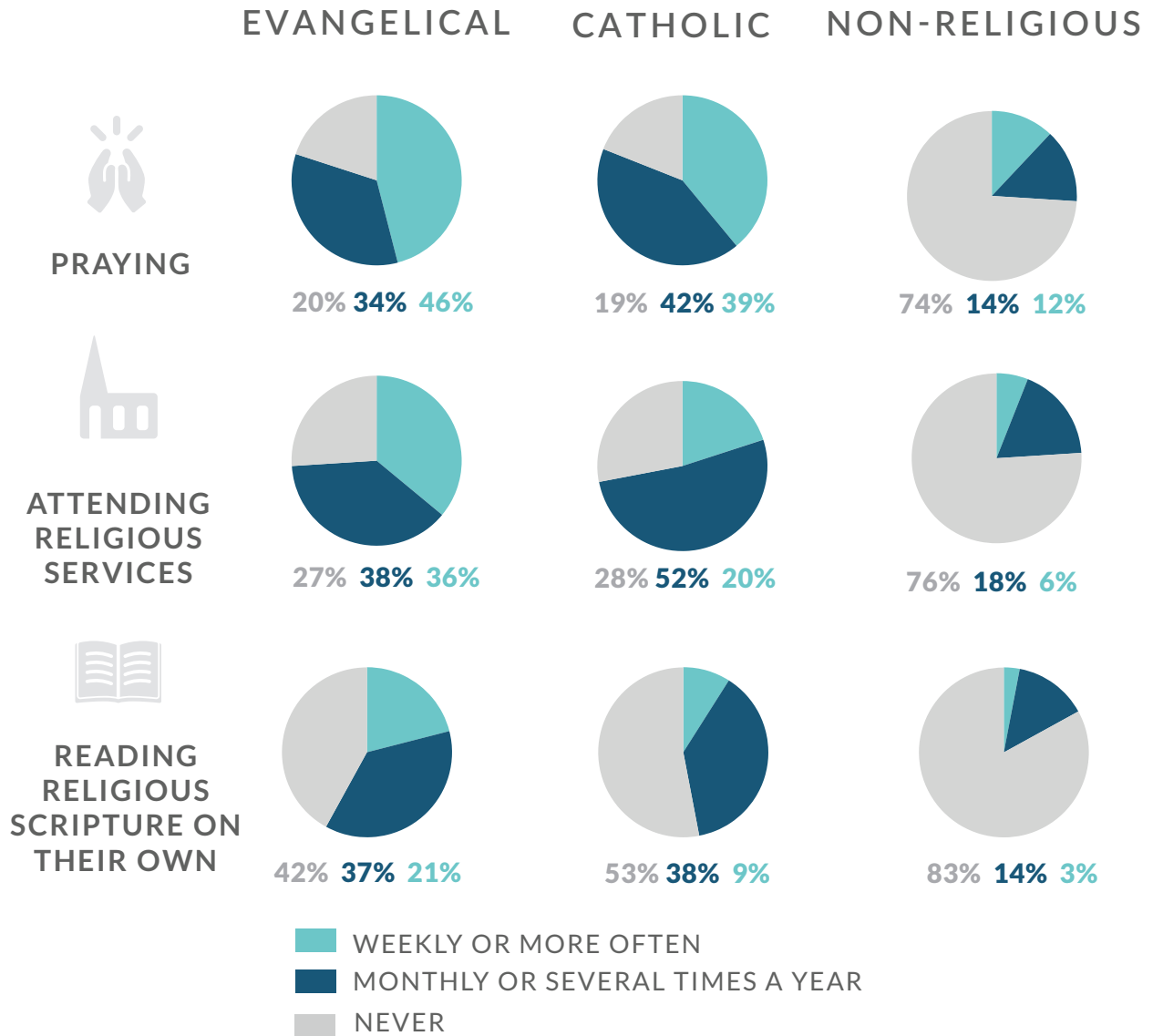
# Religious Habits

We gained a glimpse into the spiritual disciplines of this generation by measuring teens' religious habits including gathering with their faith community, reading scripture, praying, and having spiritual conversations. Overall, teens in Colombia were the most likely to be doing these things regularly of the four countries surveyed and teens in Spain were the least likely.



# SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES BY RELIGION

Engaging in spiritual disciplines is how we grow our faith. Unsurprisingly, Evangelical teens reported attending church, reading their Bibles, and praying more often than other teens did. But non-religious teens still say they sometimes engage in religious behaviors showing that some are spiritual.



# Understanding Evangelicals and Catholics




We were curious to explore the differences between Evangelical and Catholic teens, but some of what we found surprised us.

Evangelicals and Catholics were about the same in saying their faith is important to them. Catholics were actually more likely to say they have committed their life to Jesus Christ.

## IDENTITY



## BELIEFS

VIEW OF GOD	VIEW OF JESUS	VIEW OF THE BIBLE
 <p><i>God exists and I can have a personal relationship with Him</i>                      Evangelical: 69%                      Catholic: 62%</p>	 <p><i>Jesus is the Son of God</i>                      Evangelical: 62%                      Catholic: 63%</p>	 <p><i>The Bible is the Word of God</i>                      Evangelical: 59%                      Catholic: 48%</p>

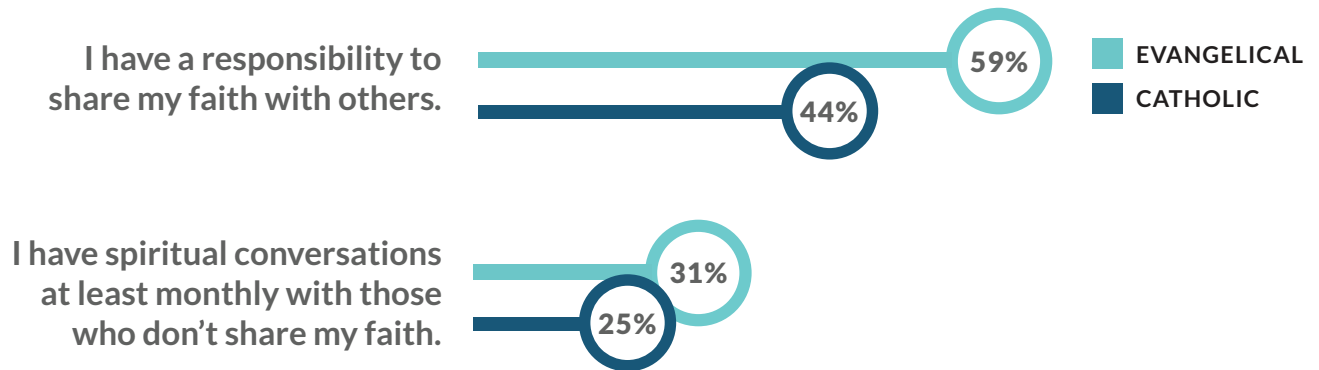


<sup>1</sup> Note that this item asked teens to share the age at which they made their most important commitment to Jesus Christ. For both Evangelicals and Catholics, the average age was 11.



## BEHAVIORS

Evangelicals are much more likely than Catholics to say they have a responsibility to share their faith with others, but they are not necessarily acting on that conviction. When we asked them how often they are having spiritual conversations, they were only slightly more likely to be sharing their faith than Catholics.



## The Committed Few

Saying you are a Christian and being serious about living out your faith can be two different things. We looked at the core beliefs and key spiritual disciplines that would reveal a teen is a Committed Christian.

### 6 TRAITS OF A COMMITTED CHRISTIAN



## COMMITTED CHRISTIANS

LATIN AMERICA



3%

SPAIN

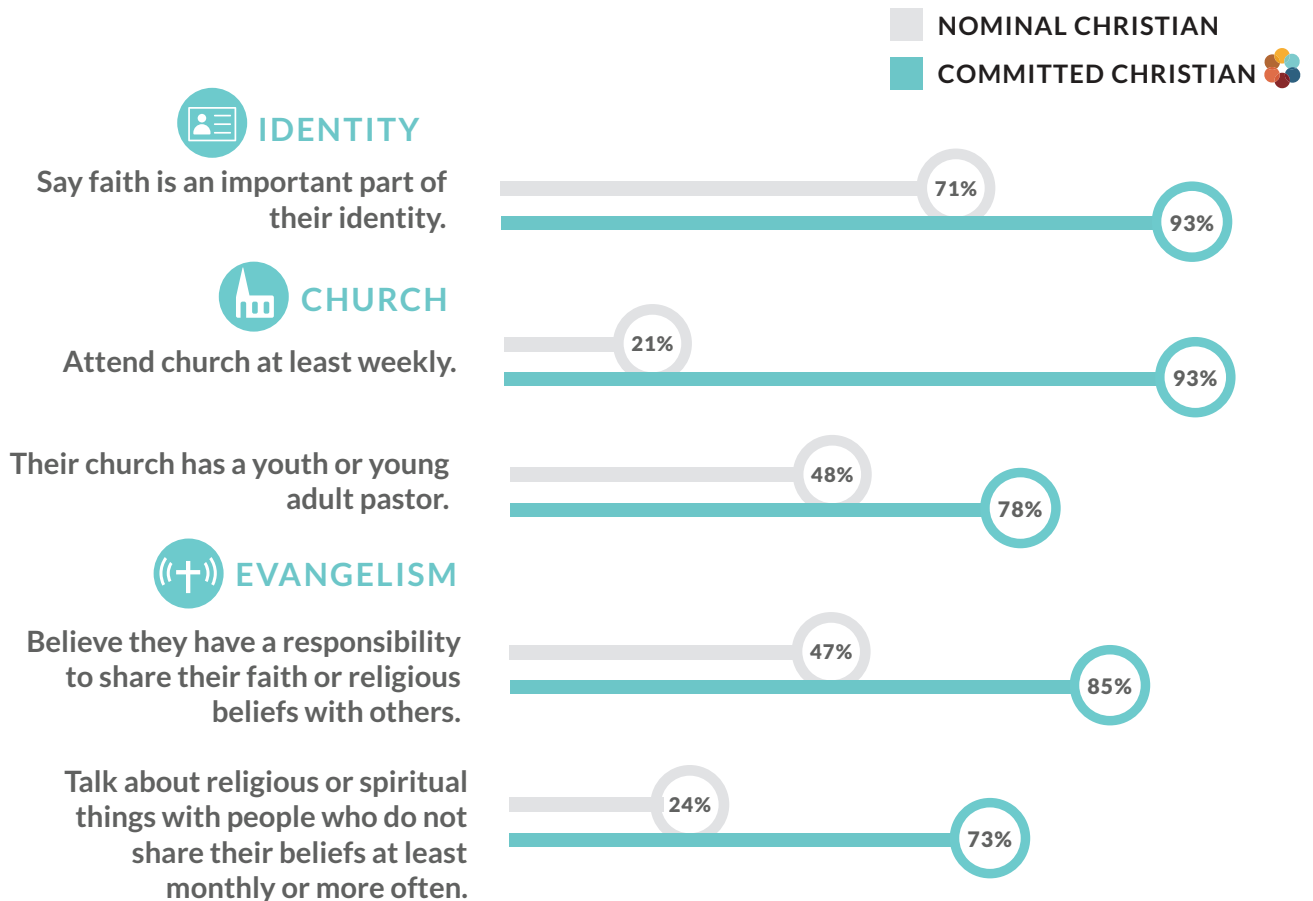


1%

Globally, only 7% of teens we surveyed were Committed Christians. **In Latin America, just 3% of teens were discovered to be Committed Christians**, though double that percentage were found in Colombia alone.

Of Committed Christians across these four countries, 2 in 5 were Catholic and 3 in 5 were Evangelical.

Committed Christians look very different from **Nominal Christians**<sup>1</sup> in several key areas.



<sup>1</sup> Adolescents who identified themselves as Christians, but not as Jehovah's Witnesses or Mormons, and who did not meet the criteria for fundamental beliefs or habits established for committed Christians.

ONLY 9% OF NOMINAL CHRISTIANS READ THEIR BIBLES AT LEAST WEEKLY ON THEIR OWN.

## Their Church Experience

We were curious about the impact that children's and youth ministry is having on teens. We discovered that almost 3 out of 4 Evangelical teens have committed their lives to Jesus Christ, with 11 being the average age of commitment.



### CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

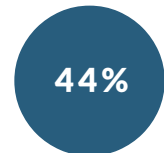
Only 1 in 3 Evangelical teens said that a church's children's ministry played an important role in their spiritual growth. Many said they did not attend a children's ministry.

*I did not attend children's ministry*

LATIN AMERICA



SPAIN



*A church's children's ministry played an important role in my spiritual growth*

■ YES ■ NO ■ MAYBE



### YOUTH MINISTRY

More than half (56%) of evangelical teens say the church they attend has a youth pastor.

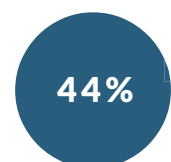
Encouragingly, 72% of teens say they have an adult mentor at church who is helping them grow spiritually.

*My church has a youth or young adults pastor*

LATIN AMERICA



SPAIN

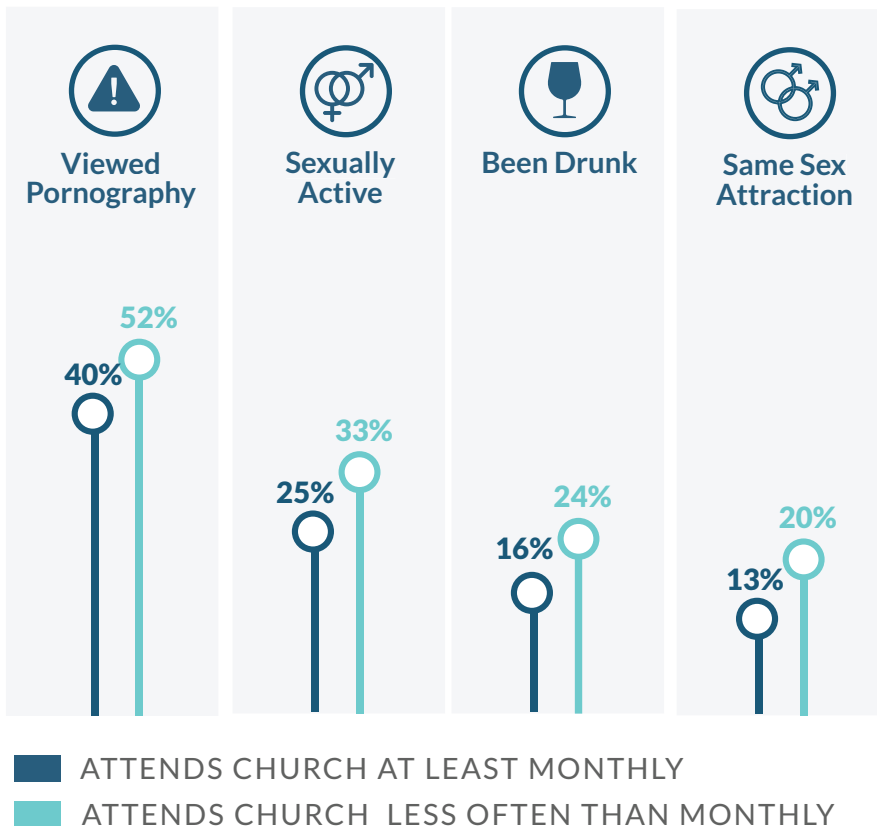


# The Power of a Church Community

We wanted to know what impact church has on the lives of teens. The data revealed that **attending church regularly makes an obvious difference in teens' external behaviors** including viewing pornography, being sexually active and drinking. Same-sex attraction was also seen to be lower among teens who attend church at least monthly. However, the differences are less noticeable when it comes to teens' mental health. A large number of Christian teens who faithfully show up to church on Sunday are struggling internally with loneliness, high anxiety, depression, and even suicidal thoughts or suicide attempts.

## PERSONAL STRUGGLES BY CHURCH ATTENDANCE

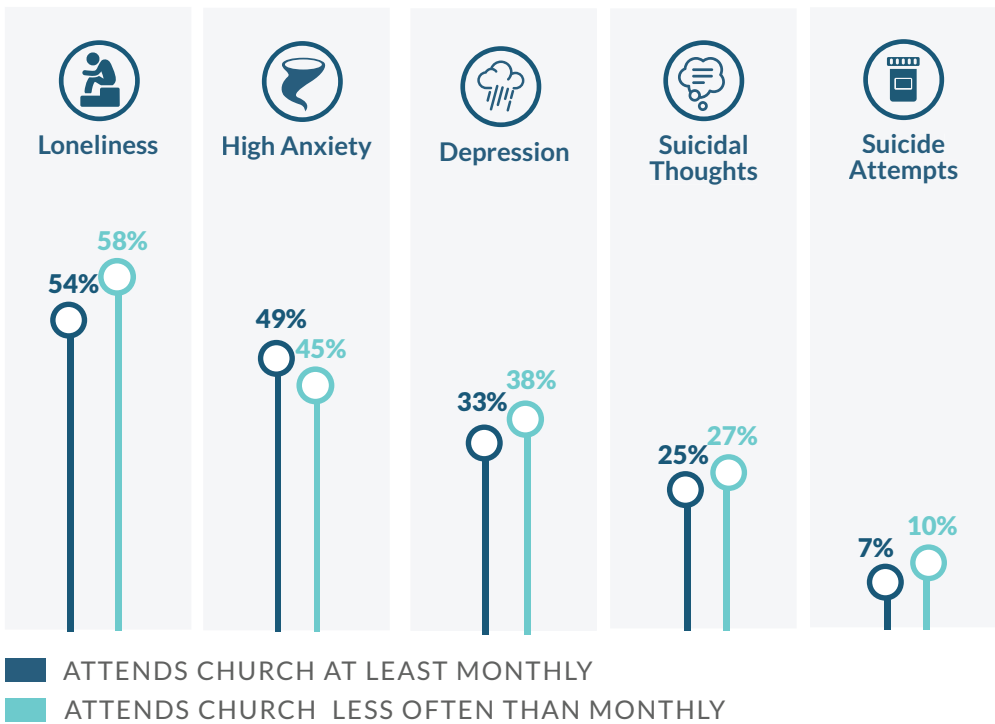
*Within the past three months, I have experienced:*





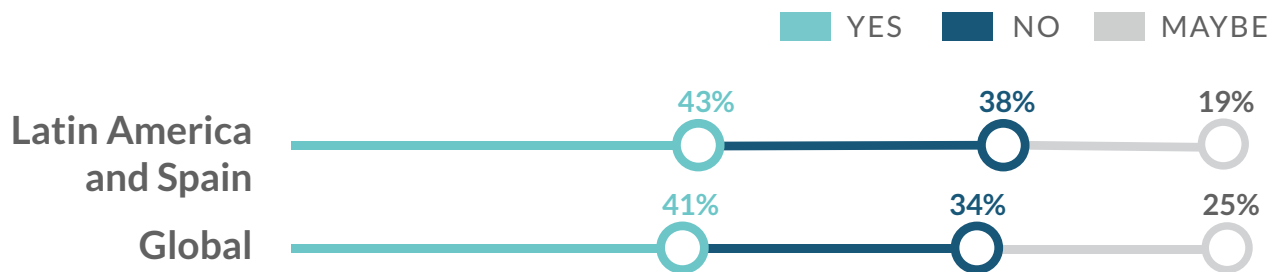
## MENTAL HEALTH BY CHURCH ATTENDANCE

Within the past three months, I have experienced:



A church community can play a formative role in a young person’s life and continue to be a place of support and encouragement as they mature. Why aren’t more teens at church? They may just need an invitation. Many teens who do not attend church say they would be open to coming if someone invited them.

## OPEN TO ATTENDING CHURCH



The witness of the church and the people in it is powerful to a watching world. Our research shows that the majority of teens have a positive perception of Christians. **7 in 10 teens say the Christians they know are kind and caring.**

**8 IN 10 TEENS WHO DON'T GO TO CHURCH SAY THEY WOULD CONSIDER COMING IF INVITED.**

# Conclusions

This valuable information on the religious identity and habits of today's teens can guide us towards practical action. How can we continue to reach out to the young people who need to hear the Gospel, as well as disciple those teens already within our churches? Here are some key takeaways:

- **MANY OF TODAY'S YOUNG PEOPLE SEPARATE SPIRITUALITY FROM RELIGION.** A lot of teens say that faith beliefs or a spiritual journey are an important part of their identity even if they are non-religious. But they are confused about where truth can be found. We have the opportunity to share with them the only truth that saves and how it has made the difference in our own lives.
- **GOD'S WORD IS NOT SPEAKING INTO THE LIVES OF TEENS BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT READING IT.** Even a lot of Evangelical teens say they never read the Bible. How can we help this next generation encounter the life-giving truth God's Word has for them?
- **THE CHURCH CAN BE A POWERFUL FORCE FOR GOOD IN THE LIVES OF YOUNG PEOPLE.** The research shows that attending church is having some positive influence on external behaviors, but not necessarily a teen's internal lived experiences like high anxiety or loneliness. How can we be aware of what teens are dealing with behind the scenes and move beyond the do's and don'ts of Christianity to help teens embrace the true freedom the Gospel holds for them?
- **A TEEN'S AVERAGE AGE OF COMMITMENT TO FAITH IS 11,** showing that it is more important than ever to resource children's and youth ministry to be able to disciple these young people as they grow. But many teens say they did not attend children's ministry or it did not play an important role in their spiritual growth. How will we ensure this generation is being well cared for spiritually within our churches so their faith can become strong and mature?
- **CHURCHES SHOULD CONTINUE TO BUILD AND STRENGTHEN THEIR CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH MINISTRIES.** Many Christian teens say their experience in a children's ministry was highly influential in their lives. But they continue to need discipleship and mentorship in every stage. 13 is the pivotal age for many to say they committed their lives to Christ, making youth ministry critical in continuing to grow the faith of these young believers. How can we continue to equip children's and youth ministry leaders who play a key role in the lives of young people?
- **WHERE ARE THE COMMITTED CHRISTIANS?** Many teens say they have made a commitment to Christ, but their beliefs and behaviors do not necessarily reflect a vibrant faith that aligns with God's Word. It is critical to disciple young people in forming the habits of Scripture engagement and prayer so they can draw near to God in word and in truth.

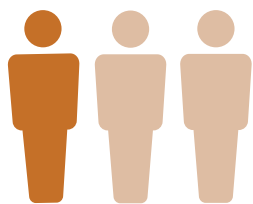
# PERSONAL EXPERIENCES AND STRUGGLES

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LATIN AMERICA AND SPAIN

# What We Discovered

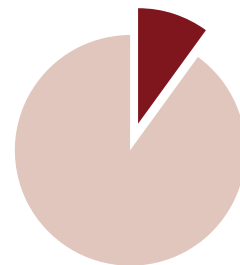
A large number of teens are struggling with their mental health.



**31%**

of teens in the Latin America region report having had suicidal thoughts within the last three months.

**1 in 9** say they actually attempted to take their own life.



Mexico is in the **top 5 countries** with the highest rates of suicidal ideation and attempts of the 20 countries in our global study.

Compared to boys, **girls are struggling much more** with their mental health **in every area.**



**1 in 3**

unmarried teens have been sexually active in the past three months.



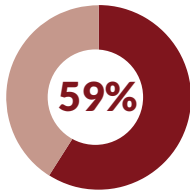
**1 in 2**

teens say they have **viewed pornography recently**, with Spain in the top 3 countries globally to report this.

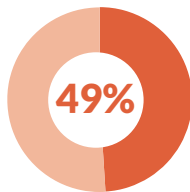
# Mental Health

Within the past three months, I have experienced:

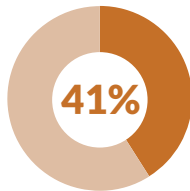
LONELINESS



HIGH ANXIETY



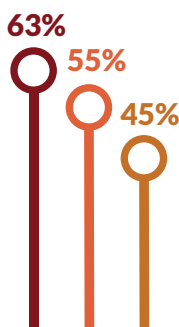
DEPRESSION



## MENTAL HEALTH STRUGGLES

Within the past three months, I have experienced:

- HIGH ANXIETY
- LONELINESS
- DEPRESSION



Global

Today's teens are growing up in an increasingly diverse and complex world. Add to that the fact that the teen years are already a time filled with uncertainties and difficulties, and you have the beginnings of an explanation for why young people may report struggles in their lives.

Teens in Latin America and Spain were up front in telling us that they are dealing with some serious personal struggles. These include feelings of loneliness, high anxiety, and depression. Some teens are even wondering at times if life is still worth living, reporting suicidal thoughts and even attempts. Teens are sexually active at every age, and many are using pornography. These topics don't have easy answers or simple solutions. But the first step is to allow teens to tell us about the complex realities of being a young person in today's world and see what life looks like through their eyes.

We asked teens to tell us about their personal experiences and struggles within the past three months of their lives. Data was collected between February-March 2020, meaning that teens were reflecting on life before experiencing widespread effects from the coronavirus pandemic which resulted in national lockdowns and quarantines.

The statistics were startling. Three in five teens reported feelings of loneliness; half reported high anxiety; and 2 in 5 reported depression.<sup>1</sup> However, teens in Latin America displayed a slightly better mental health outlook than teens globally.

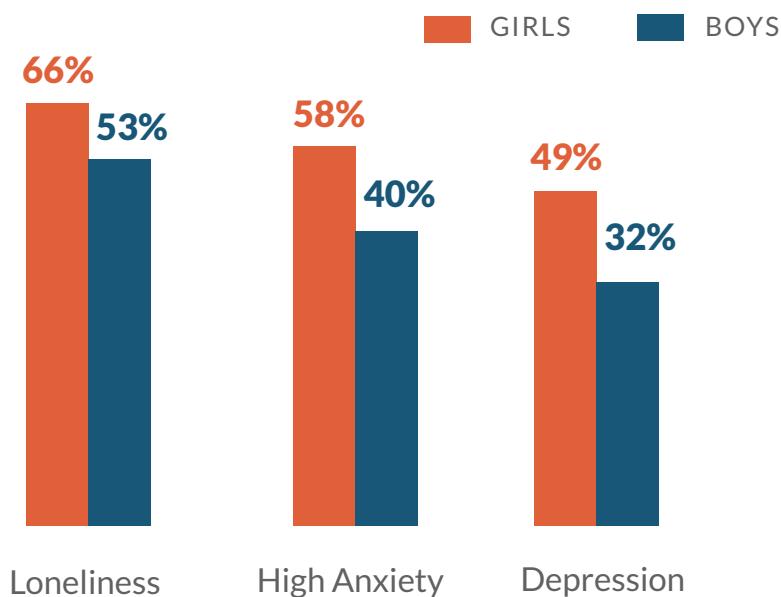
<sup>1</sup> Note that these are not necessarily clinical levels of depression or anxiety. Teens interpreted for themselves the terms provided and self-reported if they felt they had experienced them.

# Girls Struggle More

An undeniable difference in the data emerged when looking at the results by gender. **Teen girls are struggling much more than teen boys when it comes to their mental health** in every area we asked about. The same trend was observed on a global level as well.

## MENTAL HEALTH STRUGGLES BY GENDER

*Within the past three months, I have experienced:*



### WHY ISN'T FAITH MAKING A BIGGER DIFFERENCE?

In our global study of teens, **one of the biggest positive influences on a young person's mental health was their committedness to faith.** Teens who hold to the core beliefs of Christianity and demonstrate the spiritual disciplines of reading their Bibles and praying were seen to struggle less with their mental health in every area. However, this same trend was not observed for teens in Latin America and Spain. The number of Committed Christian teens across these countries was very small and they reported struggling with similar issues as other teens. In some cases they were even seen to do a bit worse, for example having more anxiety.

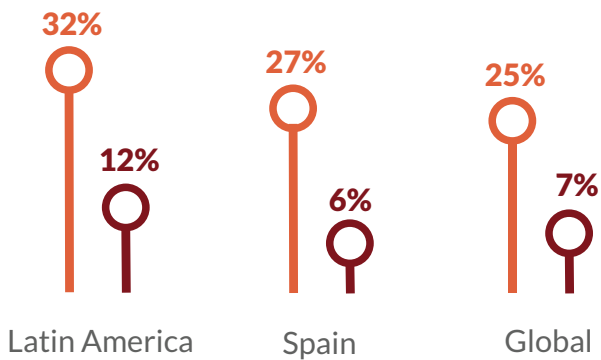
# Suicide

We asked teens to self-report if they had, within the last three months, experienced suicidal thoughts or made a suicide attempt. **Of the 20 countries in our global study, Mexico, Argentina, and Colombia ranked in the top 4 for suicide attempts.**

## SUICIDE RISK BY REGION

Within the past three months, I have experienced:

■ SUICIDAL THOUGHTS ■ SUICIDE ATTEMPTS



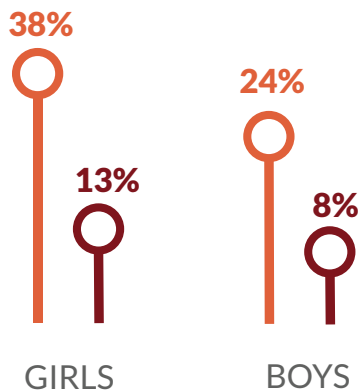
TEENS IN LATIN AMERICA ARE SOME OF THE MOST SUICIDAL IN THE WORLD.

Suicide attempts were seen to trend by age, with younger teens being at more risk than older teens. Girls are more likely than boys to report suicidal thoughts and attempts. Finally, teens spending more time online daily are also seen to be more vulnerable than those who spend less time online.

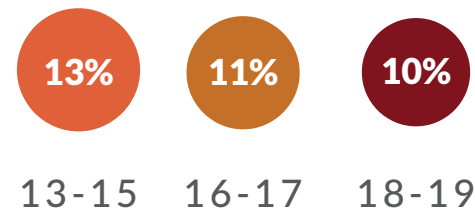


## SUICIDE RISK BY GENDER

■ SUICIDAL THOUGHTS ■ SUICIDE ATTEMPTS



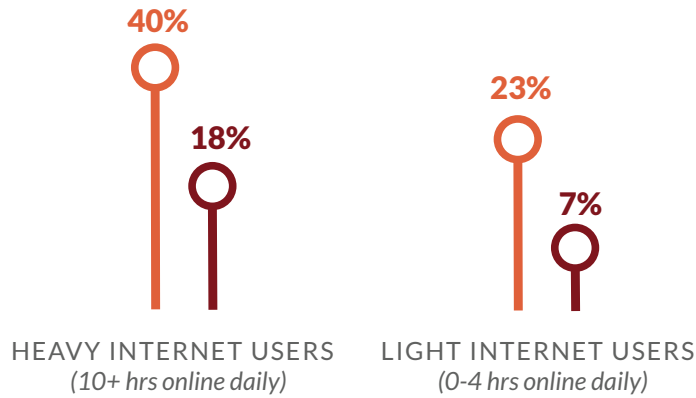
## SUICIDE ATTEMPTS BY AGE





## SUICIDE RISK BY TIME ONLINE

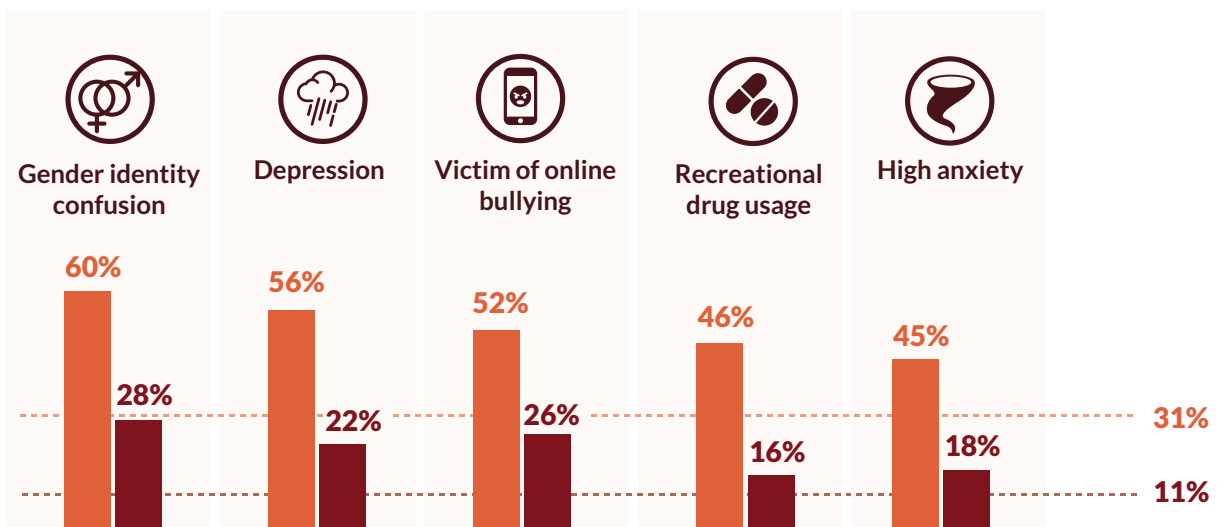
■ SUICIDAL THOUGHTS  
■ SUICIDE ATTEMPTS



Research literature on this topic points to many factors that can increase a young person’s risk for suicide including LGBTQ issues, substance abuse, bullying, and symptoms of anxiety or depression. Our research revealed similar areas of vulnerability for teens. Teens who report gender identity confusion, depression, or online bullying are much more likely to also report suicidal ideation and attempts. Recreational drug usage and high anxiety were also observed to accompany higher rates of suicidal thoughts and attempts.

## 5 FACTORS THAT CORRELATE WITH HIGHER SUICIDE RISK

■ SUICIDAL THOUGHTS   
 ■ SUICIDE ATTEMPTS   
 ⋯ REGIONAL AVERAGE



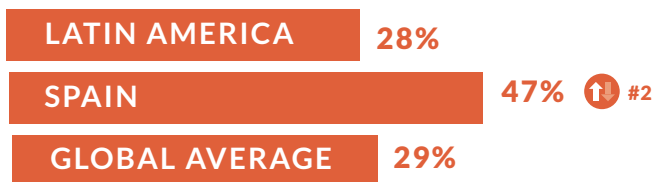


Suicide attempts, like suicidal thoughts, fall on a continuum from reckless behaviors that show a low value for life to planned and pointed attempts. It is not necessarily one event that triggers teens to try to take their life, but could be a series of small steps and thoughts that each build on the other. Regardless of the specific circumstances, this data shows that some teens are in seriously dark places that are driving them towards desperate action. We should be heartbroken for young people who feel meaningless enough about life to want to end it. **When it comes to suicide, we are not looking at numbers on a page or percentages of a sample—but at real people’s lives. Which means any number is too many.**

## Sexuality

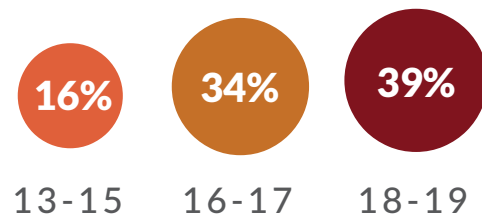
The teenage years can be a time of experimentation and include an evolving understanding of one’s sexuality and attractions. These were topics we specifically asked teens to share about, giving us a deeper look at their personal experiences. Globally, 3 in 10 unmarried teens report being sexually active. Rates are similar in Latin American countries with the exception of Spain. Nearly half of Spanish teens report recent sexual activity—the second highest rate in the world.

### SEXUALLY ACTIVE



↑↓ GLOBAL RANKING OF 20 COUNTRIES

### SEXUALLY ACTIVE BY AGE



This represents a broad spectrum of potential behaviors, but in answering this question teens defined for themselves what it means to be sexually active. Any teens who also reported being married were excluded to ensure this statistic represented only sex outside the context of marriage.

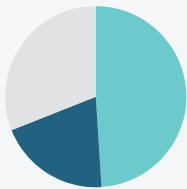
Sexual activity was much higher among older teens (18-19 years old) than younger teens (13-15 years old). However, around 1 in 6 teens (16%) under the age of 16 still reported recent sexual activity.

# View of Pre-Marital Sex

Is it ok to have sex before marriage?

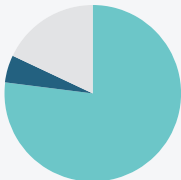
● YES ● NO ● MAYBE

## LATIN AMERICA



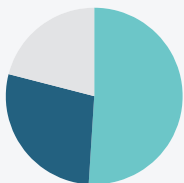
31% 20% 49%

## SPAIN



18% 5% 77%

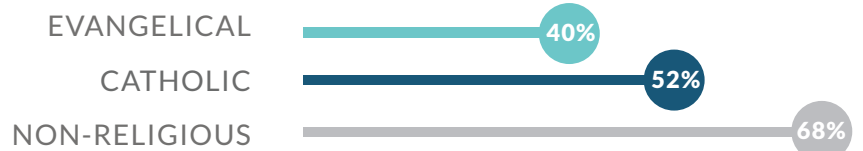
## GLOBAL



21% 28% 51%

Unsurprisingly, a teen's viewpoint on this is different based on their religion, with Evangelicals being the most conservative.

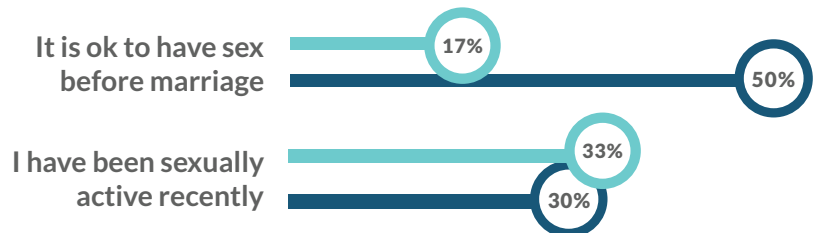
## IT IS OK TO HAVE SEX BEFORE MARRIAGE



Relatively few Committed Christian teens said they believe pre-marital sex is ok, however, they are just as likely as Nominal Christians to be sexually active and match the regional average overall.

## CHRISTIAN TEENS RESPOND

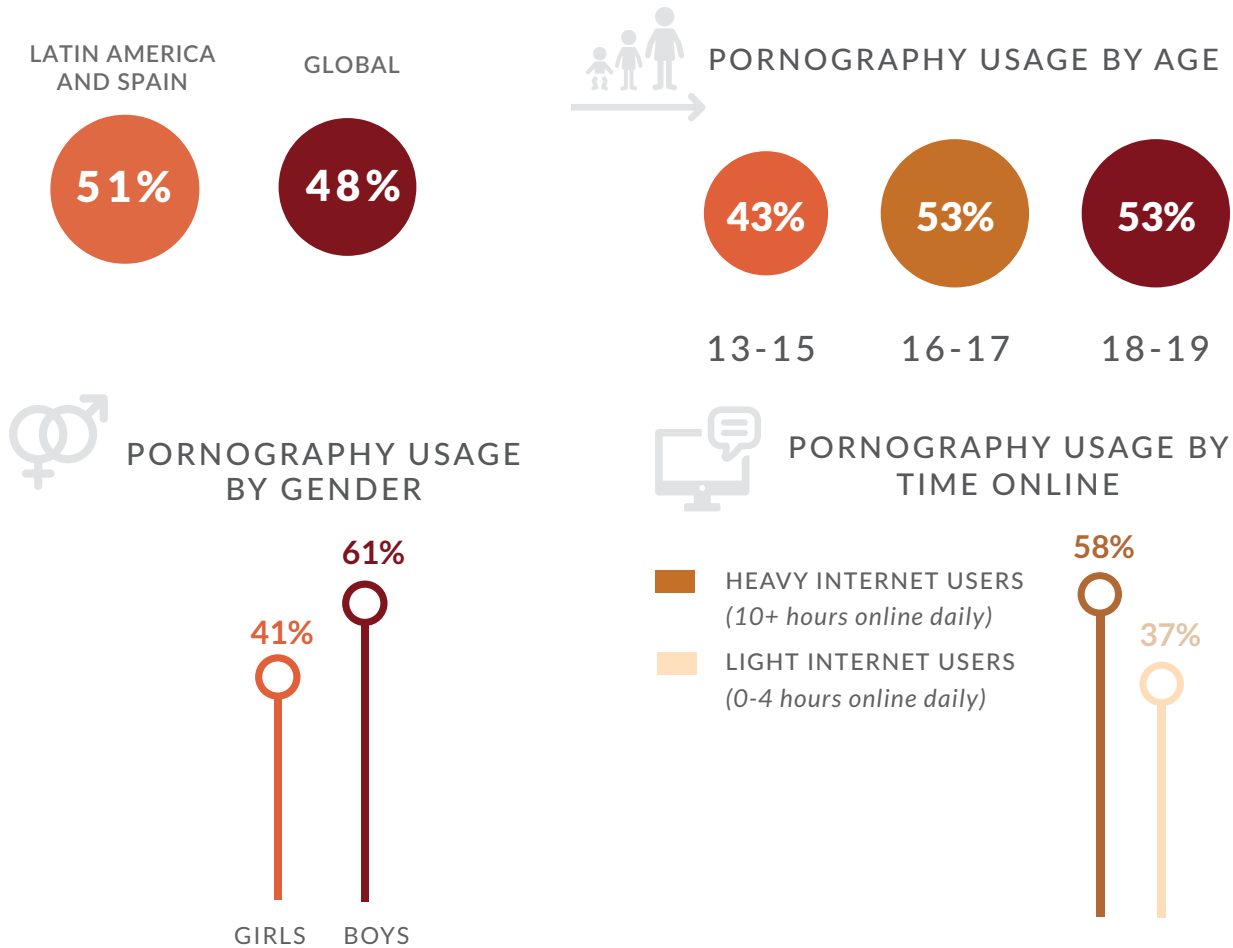
■ COMMITTED CHRISTIAN ■ NOMINAL CHRISTIAN



# Pornography

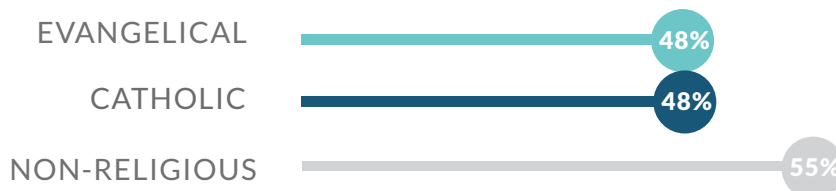
Teens in Latin America are generally higher than the global average to say they have recently used pornography, with Spain being in the top 3 countries globally (56%).

## PORNOGRAPHY USE



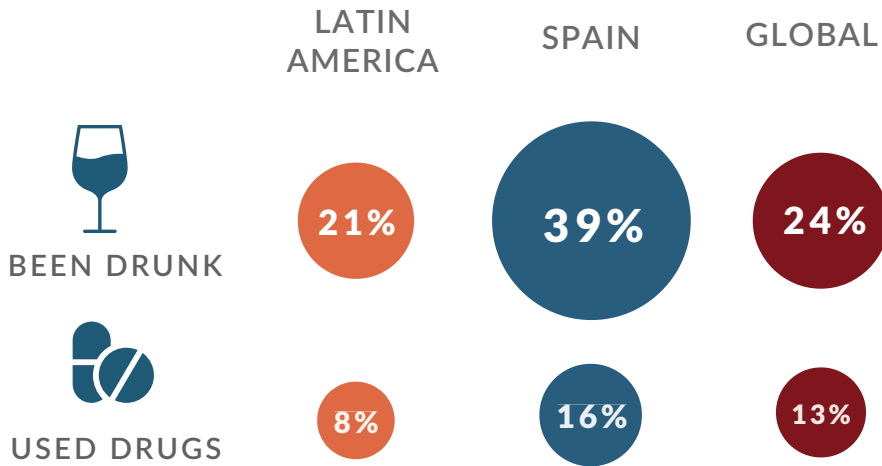
Almost half of Evangelical teens report having viewed pornography recently, with rates higher among non-religious teens.

### I HAVE LOOKED AT PORNOGRAPHIC MATERIAL RECENTLY.



# Other Struggles

Our research revealed several other challenges teens in Latin America are facing. Around **1 in 10** teens say they have used recreational drugs, and **1 in 4** teens say they have recently been drunk.



# Conclusions

This data is a sad picture of how life can look when seeing from the eyes of young people. The daily experiences and struggles teens face can seem overwhelming, but help us understand where to start: by listening. Before we act, we must first understand their real struggles.

- **SUICIDE IS A SERIOUS ISSUE.** It might seem unimaginable to want to end your own life, but for some teens in Latin America, this is a very present idea. Too many teens in these Latin American countries are having suicidal thoughts and even attempting to act on those thoughts. How can we help young people see the light and embrace the hope of the Gospel for their lives?
- **GIRLS NEED ADDITIONAL SUPPORT.** The differences in personal struggle rates by gender are undeniable, and the high rates among girls cannot be ignored. Consider the unique struggles girls face in regard to their gender and how we can empower mature women of faith to disciple this next generation.
- **PORNOGRAPHY IS HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT.** This is a significant issue for today's teens especially, in Latin America. Neither age nor religion protect a teen from sexual feelings and urges. And those urges can be so easily met thanks to the quick access the internet provides. How can we address the pervasive issue of pornography usage that has ensnared this next generation?
- **TEENS NEED DISCIPLESHIP IN THE AREA OF SEXUALITY.** Even though Committed Christians demonstrate an understanding that pre-marital sex is wrong, they are just as likely as other teens to be sexually active. How can we guide young people to a more biblical view on this topic that restores sex to the sacred context of marriage that God intended?



# DIGITAL CONNECTEDNESS AND IMPACT

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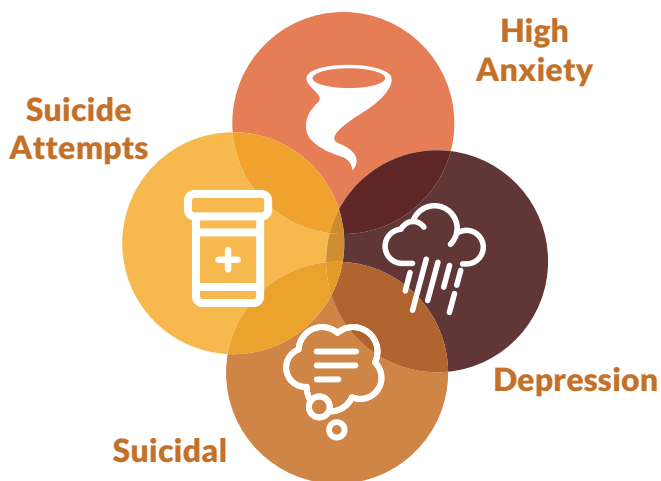
LATIN AMERICA AND SPAIN

# What We Discovered



Teens are spending an average of **7.5 hours** online daily, which is in line with the global average.

Teens who are **heavy internet users** (10+ hours daily) are **struggling more** with their **mental health** and report **more negative family experiences**.

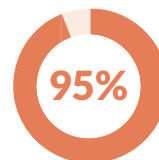


Teens in **Mexico** are the **number one** in our global survey to report that they have recently been the **victim of online bullying**, and girls are more likely than boys to report hurtful online interactions.

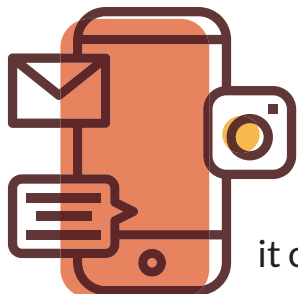


**#3**

**Argentina** ranks **#3** in the world when it comes to **hours spent online daily**.

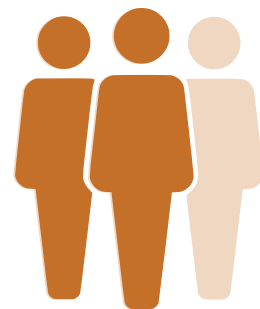


of teens say they **watch videos every day**.



Teens have mixed emotions about social media. **3 in 5** say it contributes to their life satisfaction, but **2 in 5** report it sometimes or often makes them feel sad, anxious, or depressed.

**2 in 3** of teens are using social media for **an hour or less daily**.



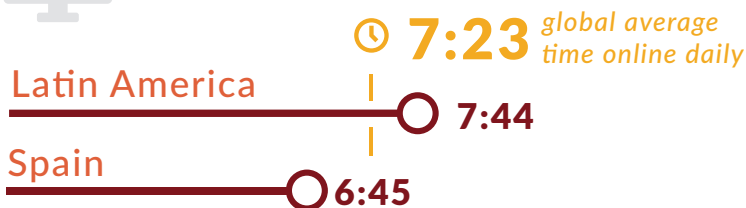
# Online Engagement

This is the most digitally connected generation the world has ever seen. Most teens grew up on the Internet, have had smartphones in their hand from a young age, and have never known a world without social media.

Being internet-connected was a requirement for participation in this research study. One of the primary objectives of this research initiative was to investigate the effects of digital connectedness on teens' views, beliefs, and behaviors. How much time are teens spending online? What are they doing while connected? How is their usage of technology influencing other things in their lives? These were some of the questions we set out to answer.

Teens in Latin America are spending an average of 7.75 hours online daily, which is very close to the global average.<sup>1</sup> Teens in Argentina clock in the most time of any country in the region (8 hrs 29 min), and are ranked third overall on our global survey of 20 countries. Girls in Latin America are spending 45 minutes online more each day than boys.

What are teens doing in all those hours they spend online? Primarily talking, messaging, or video chatting. This was the most popular activity for teens worldwide as well.



<sup>1</sup> Note that data was collected between February-March 2020, before schools transitioned to virtual learning due to the coronavirus pandemic. Teens were not specifically asked to exclude school activities from total time spent online daily, so some may have included it in their estimate.



## Chatting



## Videos



## Social Media



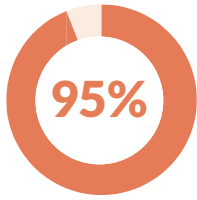
## Gaming



### TIME ONLINE BY GENDER







of teens say they **watch videos every day.**



Total time online is not the only way to understand a teen's digital habits. The activities they regularly return to also paint a picture of their online engagement. 95% of teens in Latin America and Spain say they watch videos every day on platforms including Netflix and YouTube.

## Teens on Social Media

Nine out of ten teens are using social media daily. But most (66%) said they spend an hour or less on these platforms and responded with mixed emotions about their experiences.

- **3 in 5** teens say that social media helps them feel satisfied with their lives.
- **2 in 5** teens say it can make them feel sad, anxious, or depressed.
- **Girls** are more negatively affected by social media than boys are.

### SOCIAL MEDIA HELPS ME FEEL SATISFIED WITH MY LIFE

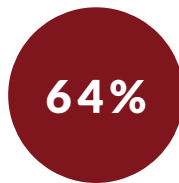
LATIN AMERICA



SPAIN



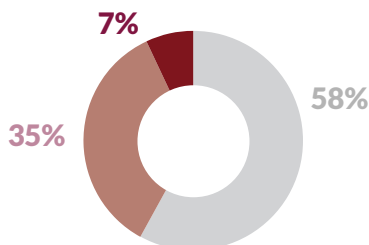
GLOBAL



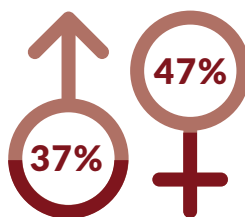
#### Reasons I use social media:

1. Find funny or entertaining content
2. Connect with friends and family

### SOCIAL MEDIA MAKES ME FEEL SAD, ANXIOUS, OR DEPRESSED



● OFTEN ● SOMETIMES  
● RARELY OR NEVER



BOYS GIRLS

# The Influence of the Internet

We received a wide variety of responses from teens regarding their usage habits and time online, prompting us to categorize respondents as light internet users (0-4 hours online daily); moderate internet users (4.1-9.9 hours daily); and heavy internet users (10+ hours online daily).

We immediately saw extremes between the two categories. Among light internet users, the average daily time online was 3 hours. In contrast, heavy internet users average 13.5 hours online every day. Light internet users were more likely to be older teens and heavy internet users were more likely to be girls.

## Light Internet Users

- Average = 3 hours
- Almost 1 in 2 light internet users are 18-19 year olds

## Heavy Internet Users

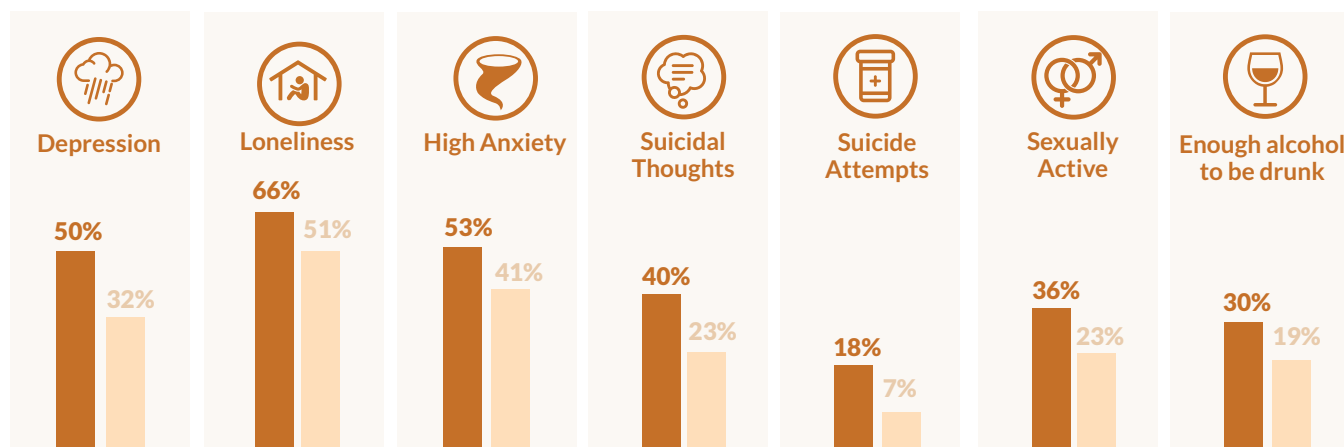
- Average = 13.5 hours
- Almost 3 in 5 heavy internet users are girls

Looking at the data through this lens reveals some interesting findings. Heavy internet users are struggling more with their mental health than teens who spend less time online. In addition, heavy internet users are more likely to be sexually active and to report drinking.

## PERSONAL STRUGGLES BY TIME ONLINE

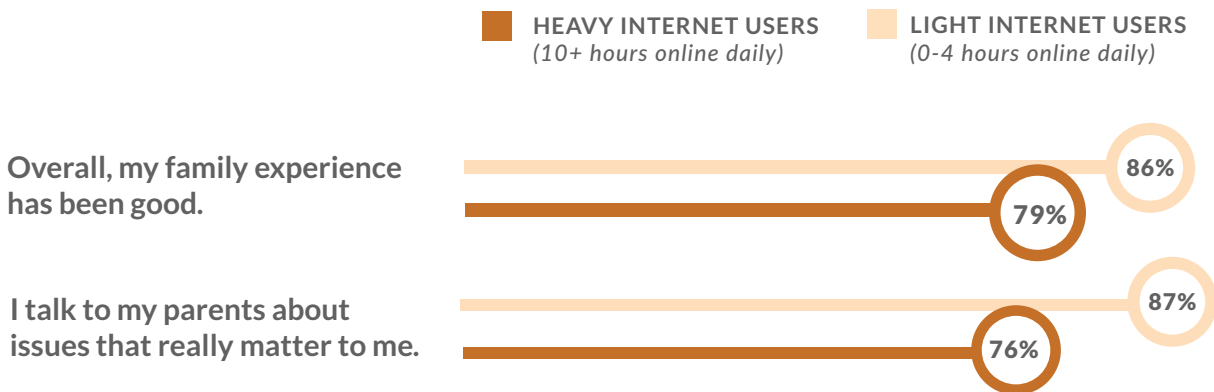


Within the past three months, I have experienced:



**Sadly, heavy internet users are more likely to report a poor family experience,** and are less inclined than light internet users to talk to their parents about issues that really matter to them. Instead, heavy internet users often turn to social media or other online sources to discuss important life questions. Encouragingly, both heavy and light internet users report they have close friends who know them well.

## FAMILY EXPERIENCE BY TIME ONLINE



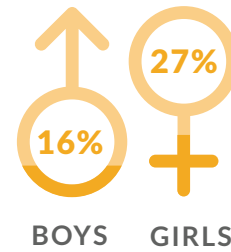
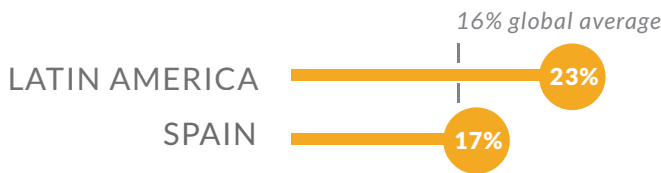
Teens in Latin America and Spain are not the only ones navigating a complex relationship between their in-person experiences and their digital lives. This same trend was observed globally across the 20 countries surveyed. Many of these same mental health concerns surfaced across the world when paired with time spent online. And in other countries we saw even more pronounced differences in teens' values and views when contrasting light and heavy internet users.

Obviously, these findings are deeply concerning. However, **the nature of the relationship between time online and teens' personal struggles is far from clear.** This data shows that there is some kind of connection between them, but does not suggest that one leads to the other. It is possible that heavy internet usage contributes to these personal struggles in the lives of young people. On the other hand, teens who are already struggling with their mental health may be turning to their digital devices as a way of escape.

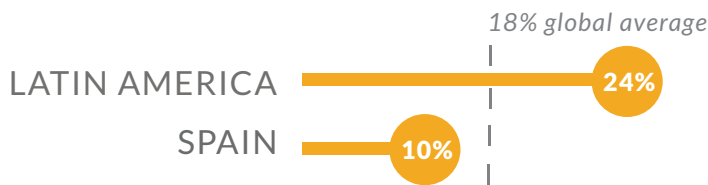
## Hurtful Interactions

The internet is not always a safe place for teens to be. Our study found that **nearly 1 in 4 teens in Latin America say they have recently been the victim of online bullying,** though the rates varied by country. Some teens were also transparent in telling us that they too have been personally hurtful to someone online recently. Overall, teens in Spain reported these negative experiences and interactions less than teens in other Latin American countries. Mexico was the top country globally to report online bullying (27%).

I have been bullied online recently



I have been personally hurtful to someone online recently

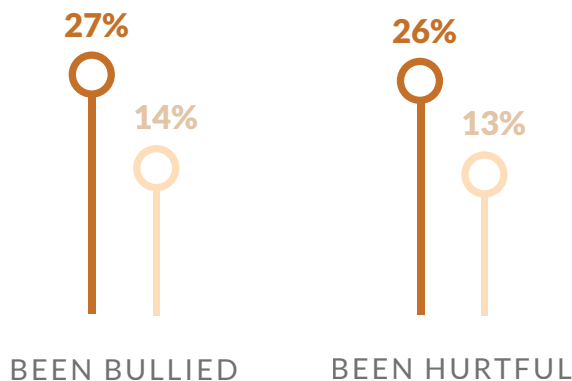


“1 IN 4 TEENS IN LATIN AMERICA HAVE RECENTLY BEEN THE VICTIM OF ONLINE BULLYING”.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, time online contributes heavily to whether or not hurtful interactions take place. Heavy internet users are twice as likely as light internet users to report that they have been bullied online or been personally hurtful to others.

## BULLYING BY TIME ONLINE

■ HEAVY INTERNET USERS (10+ hours online daily)
 ■ LIGHT INTERNET USERS (0-4 hours online daily)



Technology can be a popular place to lay the blame for the problems in young people’s lives, but we also cannot forget that the teen years are already filled with hormonal changes, social upsets, and other disruptions that can all contribute to a poor mental health outlook. **Time spent on digital devices is just one more element in a complex combination of factors affecting the lives and personal experiences of today’s teens.**

# Conclusions

Constant connectedness to digital platforms is the way of life for today's young people. Now that we know where they are and what they are doing digitally, how do we engage them effectively with the Gospel message they need to hear? Here are some ideas to consider:

- **TEENS ARE SPENDING A LOT OF THEIR ONLINE TIME CHATTING AND TALKING.** How can we empower them to be having meaningful, thought-provoking conversations with their peers? In addition, how can we as the church engage in meaningful, thought provoking conversations with teens on these chatting platforms?
- **VIDEOS ARE PART OF EVERY TEEN'S DAILY LIFE** and can be a powerful vehicle to reach young people. Teens are constantly returning to platforms like YouTube and Netflix and watching video content every day. How can we use this appealing medium to reach young people for Christ?
- **SOCIAL MEDIA CAN BE AN EFFECTIVE WAY TO REACH TEENS,** but keep in mind most are not spending a lot of time on these platforms every day. Teens are also divided on whether social media is helping or hurting them, with girls more negatively affected than boys. Consider the content you are putting out for them and how you can help them navigate their complex relationship with their digital devices.
- **SOME TEENS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SCREEN ARE STRUGGLING DEEPLY.** Those who are spending a lot of time online may be dealing with some very serious mental health issues. They may also be facing bullying and negative experiences in real life relationships such as within their family. How can we come alongside young people and encourage them in the midst of the circumstances they face?



# IDENTITY AND RELATIONSHIPS

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LATIN AMERICA AND SPAIN

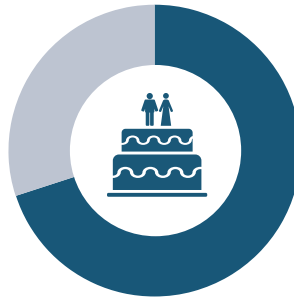
# What We Discovered

**31%** of teens believe gender is primarily based on the sex with which a person is born.



**64%** believe it is something a person determines for themselves according to their personal feelings or sexual attractions.

**Girls** have a **less traditional** view of gender identity than boys do, and are more likely to say it is acceptable to change your body to become a different gender.



**70%** of teens globally believe marriage **should not be exclusively** between a man and a woman.

**Mexico and Argentina** are in the top 5 countries globally to report gender identity confusion.



**1 in 4**

teens in Latin America report having felt **sexually attracted to someone of the same gender** within the past three months, which is higher than the global average.



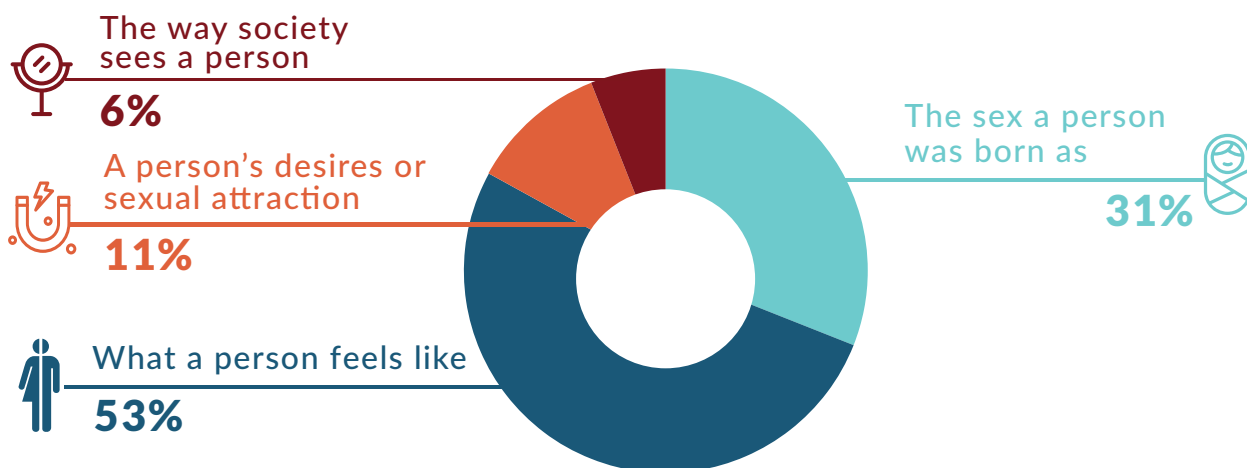
Teens are satisfied with their relationships, with **83%** reporting their **family experience has been good overall** and **82%** saying they have **close friends who know them well**.

# Gender Identity

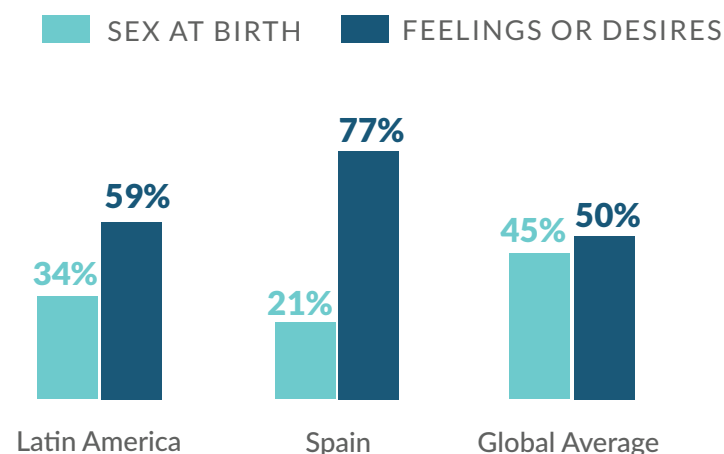
A teen's identity and relationships are intricate and highly personal. No research initiative can measure all the aspects involved, so we chose to focus on several key areas related to how teens view themselves and others. What do they say about gender identity and what that means to them? How satisfied are they with their friend and family relationships? What perspectives are they taking with them into adulthood on topics like marriage? These conversations are complex, but here's a look at what we discovered in these important areas.

**Only 3 in 10 teens (31%) across Latin America hold to a traditional view of gender,** saying that it is primarily based on the sex a person is born as. The majority (64%) of teens in these countries believe gender is a choice—something that can be self-determined according to personal feelings or a person's sexual attractions. Argentina and Spain are in the top 5 countries globally for teens to report they believe gender is not an objective reality, but a subjective one.

## GENDER IS PRIMARILY BASED ON:



## VIEW OF GENDER

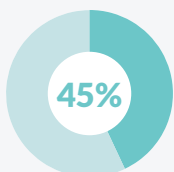




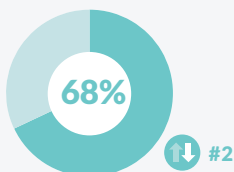
Is it ok for someone to change their body to become a different gender?

YES RESPONSE

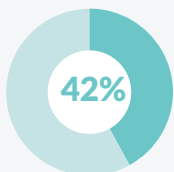
LATIN AMERICA



SPAIN



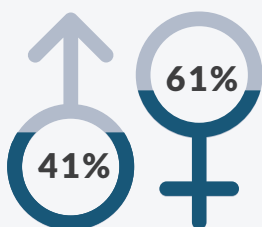
GLOBAL



GLOBAL RANKING OF 20 COUNTRIES

BOYS VS. GIRLS

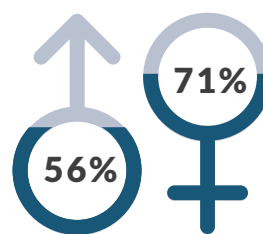
YES RESPONSE



BOYS GIRLS

Girls have a less traditional view of gender than boys do. The majority of girls (71%) believe gender is primarily based on a person's feelings or desires as compared with significantly fewer boys (56%) who say the same. Girls are also much more likely than boys to say it is acceptable for someone to change their body to become a different gender (61% vs 41%).

Gender primarily based on a person's feelings or desires



BOYS GIRLS

Overall, half of teens across the region believe that if a person feels they are a different gender, they should be able to do something about it.

Gender identity appears to be a topic that teens have some definite opinions about. And our research showed that some teens in Latin America are personally experiencing gender identity confusion or desire to change their gender.

- **13%** of teens say they feel they would be most themselves as a **different gender**.
- **Mexico and Argentina** rank in the top 5 countries globally for teens to report they **struggle with gender identity confusion** (14% and 12%).
- Teens who are **heavy internet users are more likely to report gender identity confusion** than light internet users (16% vs 10%).<sup>1</sup>
- **Girls are more likely than boys** to be experiencing gender identity confusion (14% vs 9%).

<sup>1</sup> Heavy internet users spend 10+ hours online daily and light internet users spend less than 4 hour online daily.

# The Influence of Religion

A teen's religion is another factor that has a visible impact on their opinions about gender identity. Evangelical teens are more likely than Catholics or non-religious teens to agree that gender is primarily based on sex at birth, and less likely to believe gender change is acceptable. Committed Christians are also seen to have a more traditional view of gender than Nominal Christians.

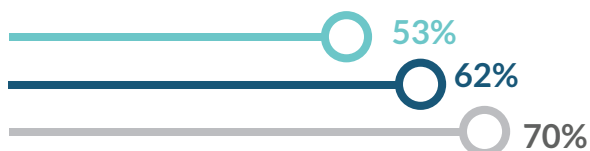
## GENDER VIEWS

EVANGELICAL CATHOLIC NON-RELIGIOUS

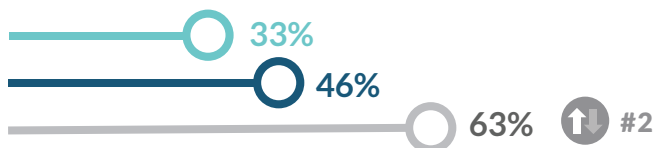
GLOBAL RANKING OF 20 COUNTRIES



Gender is primarily based on a person's feelings or desires



It is ok for someone to change their body to become a different gender.



## CHRISTIAN TEENS RESPOND

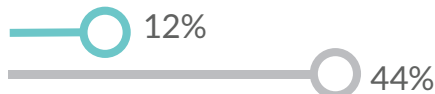
COMMITTED CHRISTIAN NOMINAL CHRISTIAN



Gender is primarily based on a person's feelings or desires



It is ok for someone to change their body to become a different gender.



# Same-Sex Attraction

A significant number of young people are struggling with their sexual attractions. When it comes to same-sex attraction, **1 in 4** teens in Latin America and Spain say this is something they have recently experienced. Argentina was the second highest country in our global study to report this (29%). Same-sex attraction is an issue teens are facing around the world, but rates in Latin America and Spain were observed to be higher than the global average.

## SAME SEX ATTRACTION

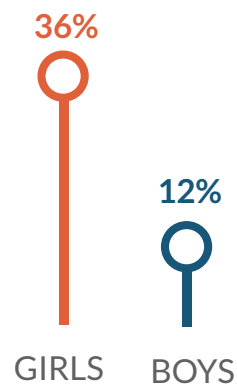
LATIN AMERICA  
AND SPAIN



GLOBAL



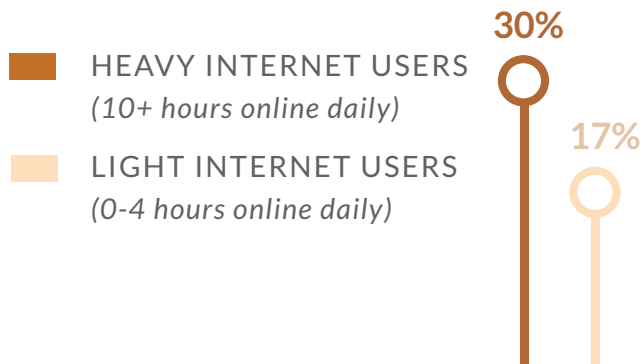
## SAME SEX ATTRACTION BY GENDER



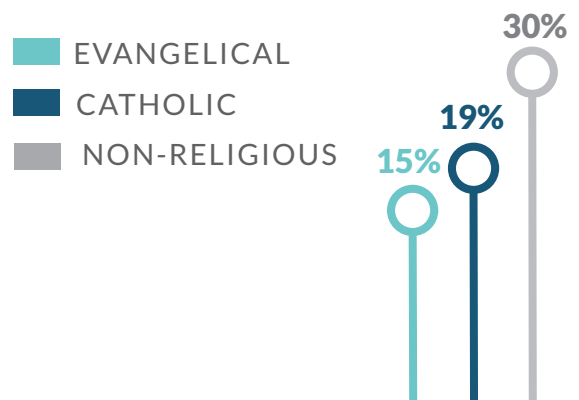
In examining these topics alongside other data points in our study, several interesting connections were revealed. For example, teen girls are three times as likely to report same-sex attraction than teen boys. Teens who spend a lot of time online daily are nearly twice as likely to report this than teens spending less time online. Non-religious teens were twice as likely as Evangelicals to be experiencing same-sex attraction.



## SAME SEX ATTRACTION BY TIME ONLINE

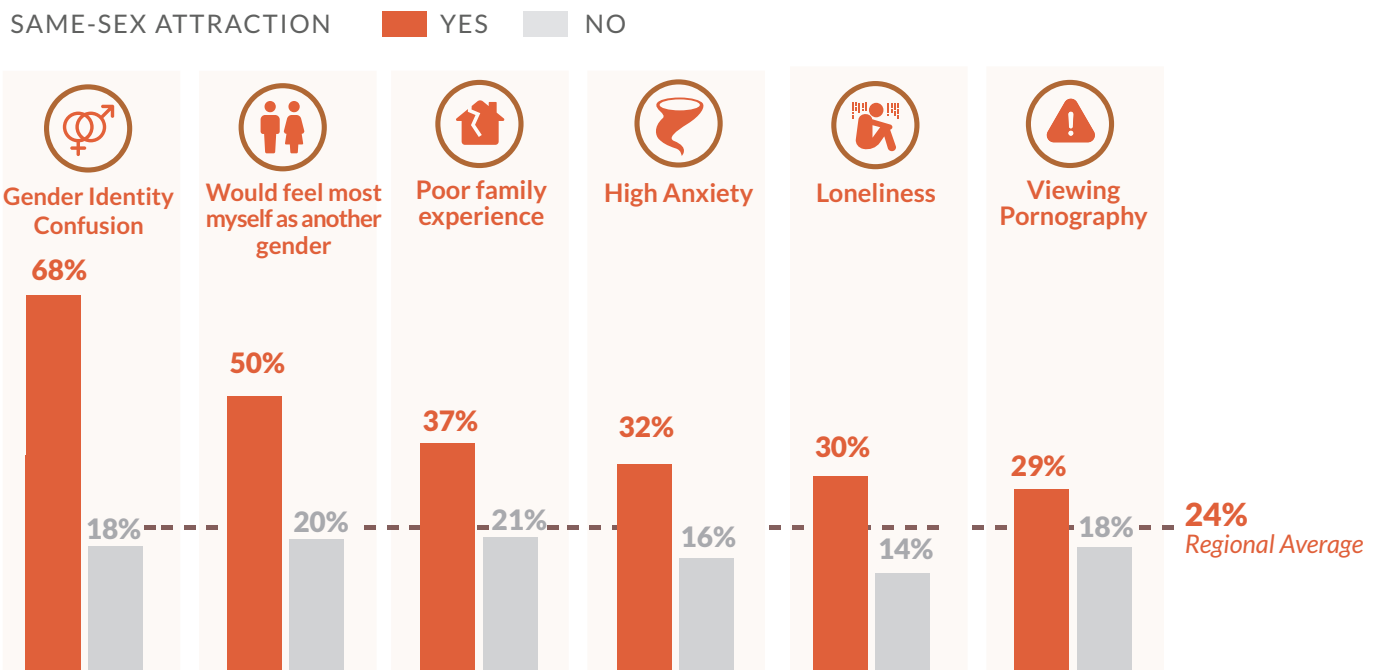


## SAME SEX ATTRACTION BY RELIGION



Finally, **same-sex attraction appears to cluster with other behaviors.** Many teens who have recently experienced same-sex attraction also report experiencing gender identity confusion. Rates of same sex attraction are also seen to be elevated in the lives of teens who report poor family experience, high anxiety, loneliness, or viewing pornography.

## 6 CONNECTIONS WITH SAME-SEX ATTRACTION



## View of Marriage

We also investigated teens' beliefs about marriage—views they will take with them into their future relationships and into adulthood. **Only around one-third of teens (36%) in Latin America believe marriage should be a lifelong commitment.** Spain and Argentina are the top 2 countries globally to say marriage should not be for life. When asked if marriage should be exclusively between a man and a woman, teens say a strong no. **Seven in ten teens in Latin America believe marriage should not be exclusively between a man and a woman.**

## Should marriage be a lifelong commitment?

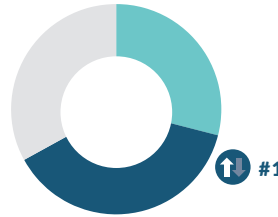
● YES ● NO ● MAYBE

### LATIN AMERICA



38% 23% 39%

### SPAIN



33% 38% 29%

### GLOBAL



27% 16% 57%

↑↓ GLOBAL RANKING OF 20 COUNTRIES

## Should marriage be exclusively between a man and a woman?

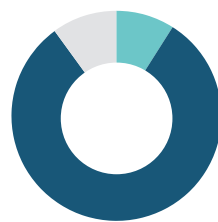
● YES ● NO ● MAYBE

### LATIN AMERICA



15% 65% 20%

### SPAIN



10% 81% 9%

### GLOBAL



12% 48% 40%

ALMOST 7 IN 10 TEENS IN LATIN AMERICA BELIEVE MARRIAGE DOES NOT HAVE TO BE EXCLUSIVELY BETWEEN A MAN AND A WOMAN.

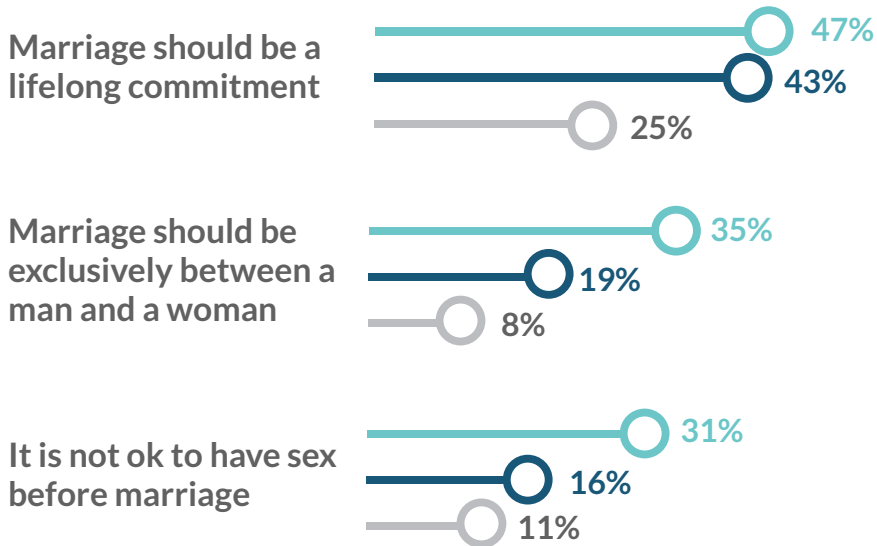
Once again, girls demonstrate a less traditional view than boys on this topic. Girls are less likely than boys to agree that marriage should be for life, and much more likely than boys to say that marriage does not need to be heterosexual.

## VIEW OF MARRIAGE BY GENDER



## VIEW OF MARRIAGE BY RELIGION

■ EVANGELICAL ■ CATHOLIC ■ NON-RELIGIOUS



Evangelicals have a more scriptural viewpoint on sex and marriage than other teens. Yet still, fewer than half believe it should be a lifelong commitment and only around a third say marriage should be heterosexual. **Fewer than a third of Evangelicals say sex should be saved for marriage.**

JUST 3% OF TEENS HAVE A BIBLICAL VIEW OF SEX AND MARRIAGE.

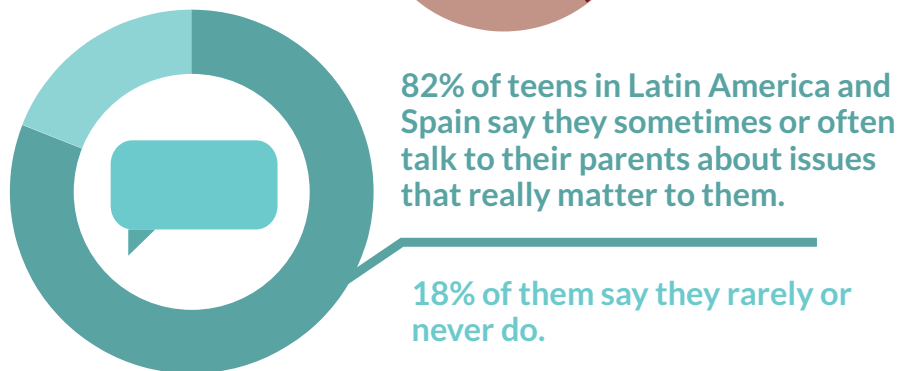
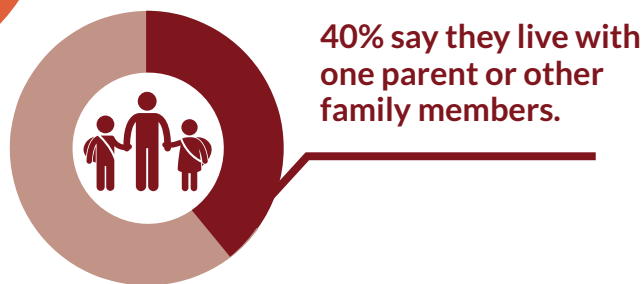
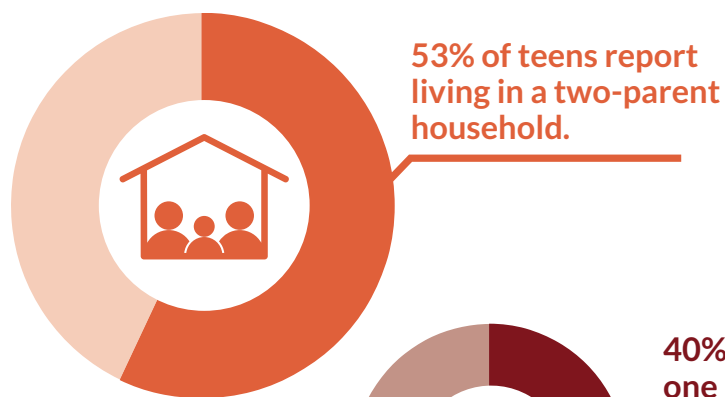
# Friend and Family Relationships

The vast majority of Latin American and Spanish teens say they are satisfied with their friend and family relationships.

*Overall, my family experience has been good:*

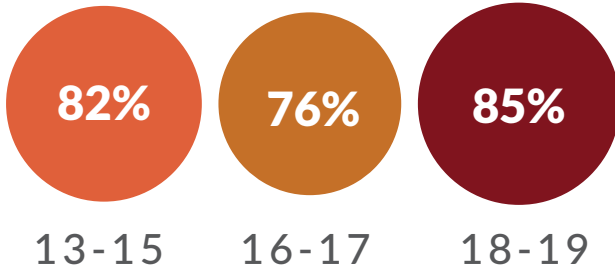


We gathered some practical insight into teens' closeness to their parents by asking them about the frequency of important conversations. More than **8 in 10** teens in Latin America and Spain say they sometimes or often talk to their parents about issues that really matter to them. This is almost identical to the global average. Older teens (18-19) were the most likely to frequently be having these important conversations with their parents, and teens 16-17 were the least likely.



## TALK TO PARENTS BY AGE

*I sometimes or often talk to my parents about issues that really matter to me.*



4 IN 5 TEENS SAY THEIR FAMILY EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN GOOD.

Teens also indicate they have strong friendships in their lives. **Four in five teens in Latin America say they have close friends who know them well.** Spanish teens are very satisfied with their friendships and are in the top 5 countries globally to say this.

*I have close friends that know me well:*





# Conclusions

It is critically important to understand and embrace our God-given identity and have healthy relationships and community around us to support our growth. Yet for many teens, the topics of identity and attractions are confusing and guidance is needed.

- **YOUNG PEOPLE INCREASINGLY BELIEVE GENDER IS A CHOICE.** Teens are saying that this important facet of their identity is something that can be self-determined according to their personal feelings or sexual desires. In addition, many teens report they are confused about their gender. How do we present what the Bible has to say about our created identity to young people who believe gender is their choice and their right?
- **SAME-SEX ATTRACTION IS A SIGNIFICANT ISSUE FOR THIS GENERATION.** Teens in Latin America, as well as around the world, are acknowledging having these feelings and wondering what to do with them. We need to be prepared to hear their stories and bring the truth of Scripture to this multifaceted and complex area of their life.
- **GIRLS ARE STRUGGLING IN THE AREAS OF HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS AND ATTRACTIONS.** They are much more likely than boys to be reporting same-sex attraction and gender identity confusion, and they have a less biblical view of marriage and gender generally. How can we be intentional to provide healthy support for girls that guides them to reflect more deeply on what God has to say about these topics?
- **TEENS SAY A STRONG NO TO MARRIAGE AS EXCLUSIVE BETWEEN A MAN AND A WOMAN,** and many are not sure it should be a lifelong commitment. How can we help teens understand God's plan for marriage and the benefits of commitment when it comes to covenant?



# INFLUENCES AND GUIDING VOICES

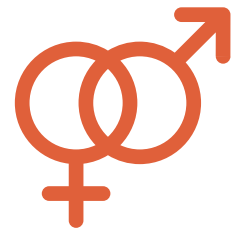
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LATIN AMERICA AND SPAIN

# What We Discovered

## MEANING OF LIFE

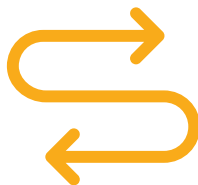
Teens say **family is their go-to for guidance**. Mexico, Colombia, and Argentina are the top 3 countries globally to say they rely on family for information on **what is right and wrong and the meaning of life**.



## GENDER AND SEXUALITY

Teens are turning almost equally to **family and social media** when it comes to conversations about gender and sexuality. They also listen to friends and peers.

Teens want to **engage both their head and their heart in faith**, saying both personal investigation and personal experiences would be powerful reasons to **change their mind about a religious belief**.



If a teen's **family experience has been poor**, they turn to their parents for advice less and **go to friends and peers or social media more**.



**Committed Christian** teens are at least five times more likely than **Nominal Christian** teens to **turn to their pastors or Bibles for guidance**.

Teens have opinions on a lot of things, but these viewpoints are rarely formed in isolation. We were curious about this generation's biggest influences. Who do they trust for guidance and advice? When it comes to some of life's most important questions, what voices are they listening to? What would change their mind about an important belief? Though far from exhaustive, this data gave us some insight into how today's teens form their perspectives.

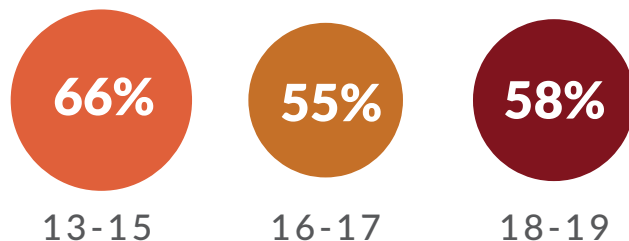
More than four in five teens in Latin America report a positive family experience and our survey correspondingly revealed that family is an important guiding voice for young people. **Teens tell us they turn to family most often for guidance on some of life's most important topics such as the meaning of life or what is right and wrong.** Mexico, Colombia, and Argentina are the top 3 countries globally to say they rely on family members for guidance in these areas. Younger teens (13-15) also rely on family for advice more than teens of other ages.

## RIGHT AND WRONG CONVERSATIONS

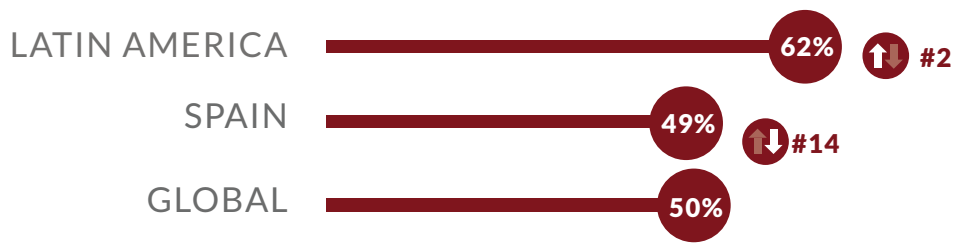
*Where I go most often for information or guidance about right and wrong*

- 1 FAMILY MEMBERS **59%**
- 2 FRIENDS/PEERS **17%**
- 3 ONLINE/SOCIAL MEDIA **10%**
- 4 TEACHERS/COUNSELORS **7%**
- 5 RELIGIOUS LEADERS/TEXTS **4%**
- 6 OFFLINE MEDIA **4%**

### GO TO FAMILY FOR GUIDANCE ABOUT RIGHT OR WRONG BY AGE



## FAMILY INFLUENCE ON RIGHT & WRONG



### MEANING OF LIFE CONVERSATIONS

*Where I go most often for information or guidance about the meaning of life:*

- 1 FAMILY MEMBERS **51%**
- 2 FRIENDS/PEERS **22%**
- 3 SOCIAL MEDIA **13%**
- 4 TEACHERS/COUNSELORS **7%**
- 5 OFFLINE MEDIA **5%**
- 6 RELIGIOUS LEADERS/TEXTS **3%**

## FAMILY INFLUENCE ON MEANING OF LIFE



GLOBAL RANKING OF 20 COUNTRIES

# Influences by Family Experience

## RIGHT AND WRONG



GOOD FAMILY EXPERIENCE



POOR FAMILY EXPERIENCE

FAMILY MEMBERS



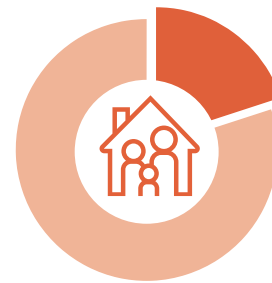
FRIENDS OR PEERS



SOCIAL MEDIA



The influence of family as a guide decreases for teens who report negative family experiences. Around 1 in 5 teens across Latin America and Spain say their family experience overall has not been good. These teens consult their parents much less for guidance on morality and meaning of life and turn more to friends and peers or social media.



## MEANING OF LIFE



GOOD FAMILY EXPERIENCE



POOR FAMILY EXPERIENCE

FAMILY MEMBERS



FRIENDS OR PEERS



SOCIAL MEDIA



**1 in 5 report that overall, their family experience has not been good.**

Certainly there are many other areas we could have asked teens about. But what you believe about life's ultimate purpose and where morality comes from has profound implications for how you will behave. These two foundational questions are critical in the all-important teen years when young people are establishing their worldview—the set of guiding beliefs—that they will carry forward with them into adulthood.

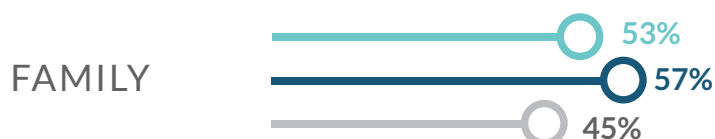
# The Influence of Religion

A teen's influences look a little different depending on their religious beliefs. Catholic teens are the most likely to be turning to their family for information on the meaning of life. Evangelical teens are going to religious leaders for guidance much more than Catholics, but overall **only 1 in 10 say their pastor or Bible is their primary source of information on this topic.**

## PRIMARY INFLUENCES BY RELIGION

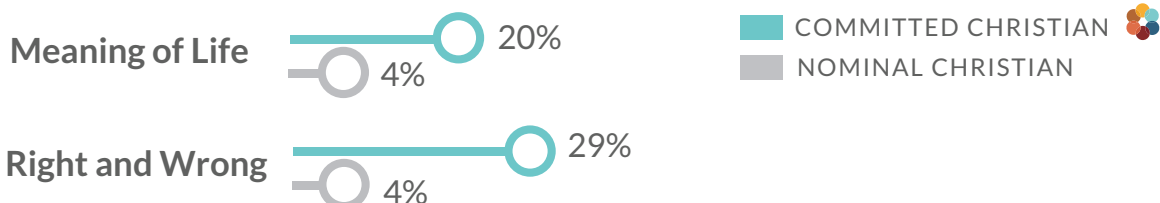
Where I go most often for information or guidance about the meaning of life

EVANGELICAL CATHOLIC NON-RELIGIOUS



Committed Christians are at least five times more likely than Nominal Christians to be turning to their pastors or Bibles for guidance and is their strong second place to family.

Turn to pastors or Bibles for guidance about...



# THE INFLUENCE OF CHURCH

We asked evangelical teens to tell us about the role church plays as a trusted guide. 56% who currently attend church say they have a youth pastor. **Sadly, most of these evangelical teens (65%) say they don't talk about life issues or concerns with leaders at their church.** It is possible they are getting good advice elsewhere, as more than 7 in 10 (72%) say they have an adult at church who is mentoring them. It is critical for young people to have wise counsel in their lives from people who have been walking with Jesus for many years and can share from the maturity of their faith.

## Gender and Sexuality is a Different Conversation

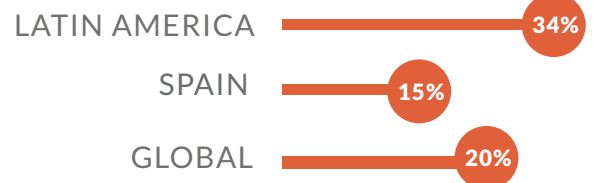
Another area we asked teens about involved the topics of gender, sexuality, and sexual issues. This conversation looks very different with teens reporting different influences. Teens are looking to social media almost as much as their family on this matter, and friends and peers are highly consulted as well. Teens in Spain, however, are much less likely than other teens in the region to be turning to their family about this issue. Differences were also seen by gender, with girls going to social media more than boys.

### GENDER & SEXUALITY CONVERSATIONS

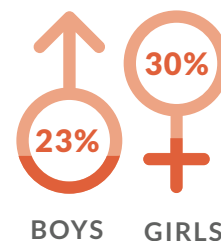
Where I go most often for information or guidance about gender, sexuality, and sexual issues:

- 1 FAMILY MEMBERS 29%
- 2 SOCIAL MEDIA 26%
- 3 FRIENDS/PEERS 23%
- 4 TEACHERS/COUNSELORS 14%
- 5 OFFLINE MEDIA 6%
- 6 RELIGIOUS LEADERS/TEXTS 2%

### FAMILY INFLUENCE ON GENDER/SEXUALITY



### SOCIAL MEDIA INFLUENCE ON GENDER/SEXUALITY



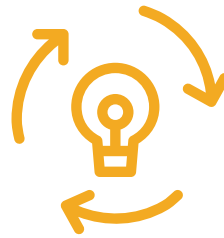


For some teens, questions about gender and sexuality are more urgent and the voices they invite to speak into their lives are different as well. Those who report recent same-sex attraction are twice as likely to go to social media for counsel (41%) than family (19%) with friends also being a higher influence than family (24%).

## What Changes Their Mind

Influences help inform and shape opinions, but at the end of the day each person decides for themselves what they will believe and how strongly they will cling to that belief. We wanted to dig beneath the surface to find out what would make teens change their mind about a religious belief they already hold. Personal experiences, such as an answer to prayer, was the most popular answer, but we also saw a large number of young people who report that a personal investigation online or in books would change their mind. Girls were more likely to favor their own investigation than boys.

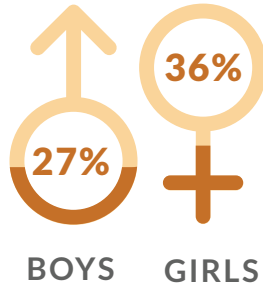
WHAT WOULD BE MOST LIKELY TO CHANGE YOUR MIND ABOUT A RELIGIOUS BELIEF?



- 1 PERSONAL EXPERIENCES SUCH AS AN ANSWER TO PRAYER: **39%**  
*compared to 37% globally*
- 2 MY OWN INVESTIGATION ONLINE OR IN BOOKS: **32%**  
*compared to 26% globally*
- 3 A CONVERSATION WITH MY PARENTS: **17%**  
*compared to 18% globally*
- 4 TEACHINGS FROM RELIGIOUS LEADERS: **7%**  
*compared to 12% globally*
- 5 A CONVERSATION WITH FRIENDS: **5%**  
*compared to 8% globally*

## RESPONSE BY GENDER

### My own investigation *online or in books*

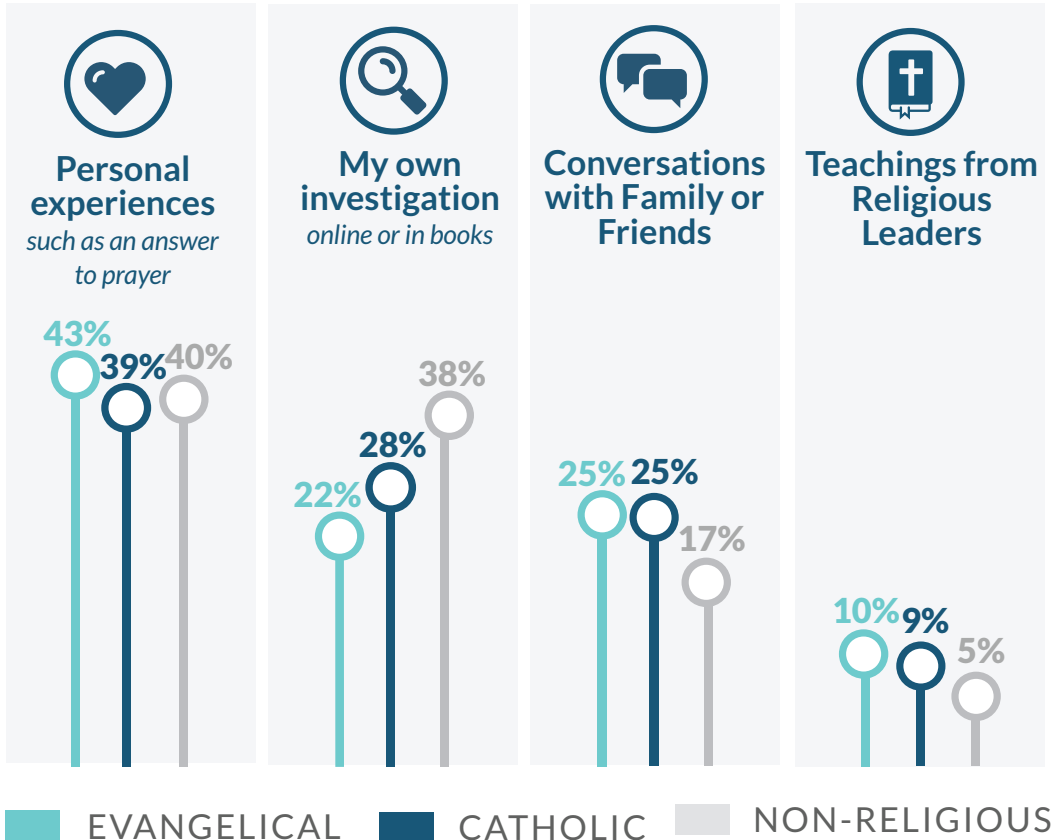


Younger teens reported that they would be impacted by a conversation with their parents more than older teens did (23% vs 14%). But still, personal experiences were the top answer choice for teens of every age.

Interestingly, teachings from religious leaders were the least convincing for teens regardless of religion. Non-religious teens lean equally on personal experiences and their own investigation. Overall, personal experiences were favored as a primary motivation to change their mind.

## INFLUENCES BY RELIGION

*What would be most likely to change my mind about a religious belief:*



# Conclusions

As today's teens navigate life's complex and confusing issues and look to their future, the voices they are listening to are critical. Whether they are seeking guidance on questions as timeless as the meaning of life and what's right and wrong, or looking for input on more personal topics like sexuality and gender identity—every teen has someone who is influencing their beliefs and behaviors.

- **PARENTS ARE A POWERFUL INFLUENCE.** Latin American teens, more so than others around the world, say that family is their go-to guide on some of life's most important questions. But parents should not take lightly the privilege they have of speaking into their child's life. When home is not seen as a positive place, teens instead go to their peers and the voices in popular culture for guidance.
- **THE VOICE OF CULTURE IS GROWING LOUDER.** Especially when it comes to the conversation around gender and sexuality, Scripture and the church are not the authority. More concerning, the young people who are personally dealing with issues like same-sex attraction are retreating further from family and the church and turning to social media and online sources as their guide. How can we ensure these teens have wise counsel and trusted people in their lives to safely discuss their challenges and questions?
- **YOUNG PEOPLE WANT TO ENGAGE FAITH WITH BOTH THEIR HEAD AND THEIR HEART.** Personal investigation is convincing, but they need more than intellectual reasons to change their mind about a religious belief. They are hungry for authentic personal experiences of faith and real encounters with God. How can we help create environments and opportunities for those experiences to happen?
- **TEENS ARE LOOKING TO THEIR FUTURE WITH HOPE.** Education is seen as a pathway to future success and many teens in Latin America have an entrepreneurial spirit. How can we help foster that attitude as well as the skills they will need to accomplish their goals?

# LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

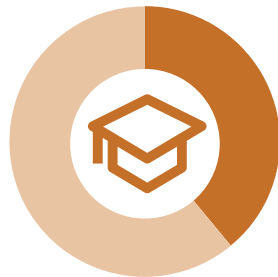
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LATIN AMERICA AND SPAIN

# Looking to the Future

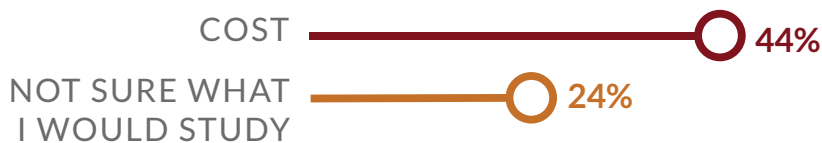
We wanted to know a little more about teens in terms of their educational goals and career priorities as they look to their future.

Most teens agree that education is the primary thing that will guarantee them a better future, with teens in Colombia among the top 5 countries globally to say this (83%).



**39%** of teens in Latin America and Spain are going or planning to go to university.

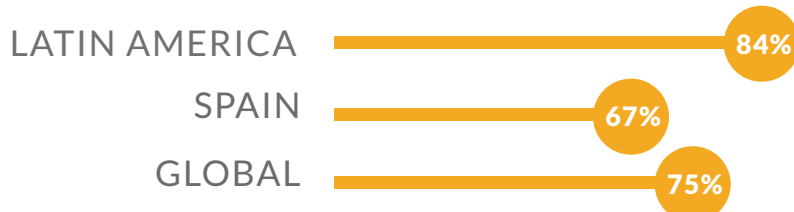
## BARRIERS TO UNIVERSITY ATTENDANCE



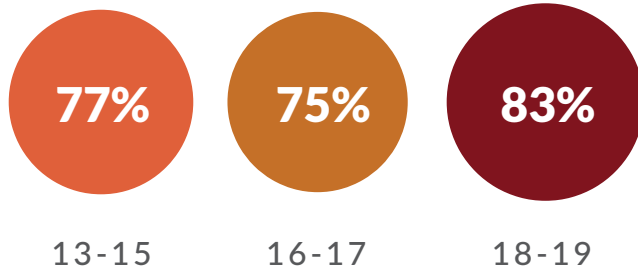
Teens in Colombia and Mexico are much more entrepreneurial than teens around the world, with around **9 in 10 saying they would like to start a business** or own a company in the future. Older teens had the most entrepreneurial attitude of any age group.



*I would like to start a business or own my own company in the future*

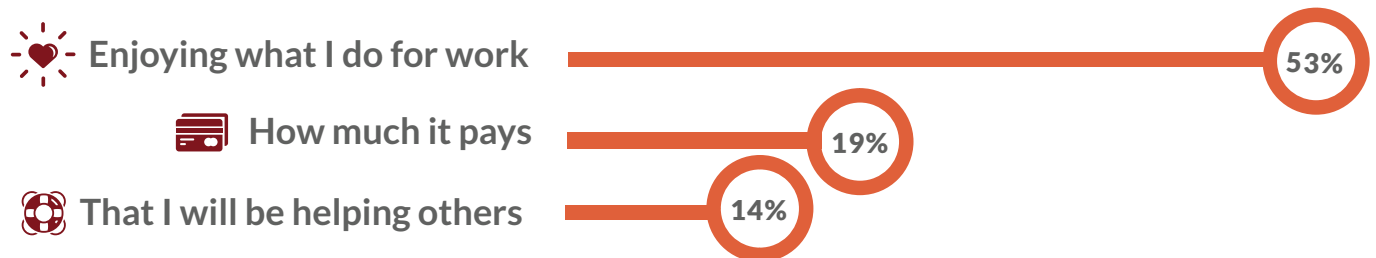


## ENTREPRENEURIAL ATTITUDE BY AGE



Regardless of where they end up working, teens say they want to feel a sense of fulfillment in their future career. More than half said this was their top priority, and this was seen globally as well. In Latin America, boys were slightly more focused than girls on how much a job pays or whether it is respected.

## TOP CAREER PRIORITIES



# About OneHope

In partnership with local churches, ministries, and governments around the world, OneHope has reached more than 1.7 billion children and youth with God's Word. Based on in-country research OneHope conducts, Scripture programs are designed to be age and culturally relevant. Since 1987, OneHope has helped kids experience God's Story, sharing the life-changing message of hope with children and youth in every country. [onehope.net](https://onehope.net)

## Methodology

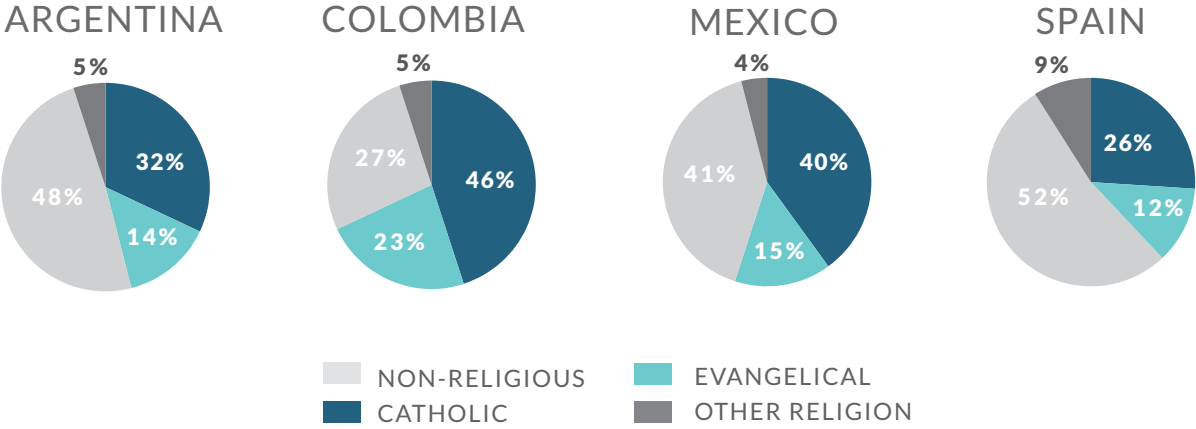
This study surveyed 1,673 teens across Argentina, Colombia, Mexico, and Spain. The survey was distributed via an online panel to young people ages 13-19 who have regular access to the Internet. Note that these results do not reflect the viewpoint of all teens in the Latin America region, but only those who are digitally connected in these four countries.

Data was collected from February 27 to March 13, 2020, which is before the effects of the coronavirus pandemic were felt in a widespread way. As a result, we believe this research accurately reflects teens' beliefs and behaviors as a baseline before this historic event disrupted life as we know it. Data was also collected before schools adapted to distance education as a result of the pandemic. While teens were not specifically instructed to exclude time spent on homework or school from their estimates of total time spent online daily, it is unlikely that very many of them were cyber students at the time they responded to this survey.

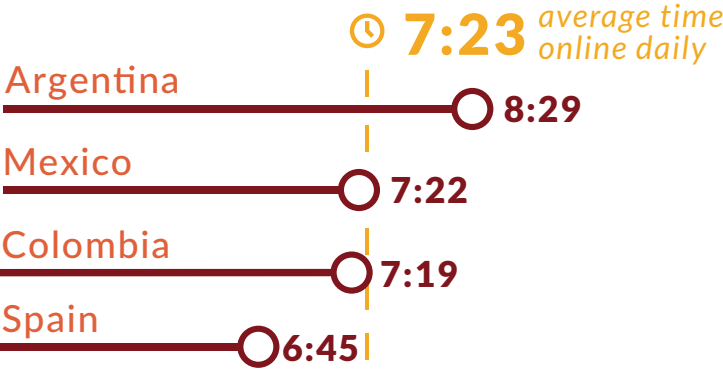
The research instrument consisted of 72 questions and was distributed via Centiment Research. As a quality control measure, respondents were disqualified if they incorrectly answered a simple attention-check question.

COUNTRY	SAMPLE SIZE	DATA COLLECTION
Argentina	420	February 27 - March 2, 2020
Colombia	413	February 27 - March 2, 2020
Mexico	420	February 27 - March 2, 2020
Spain	420	March 7 - March 13, 2020

# RELIGIOUS IDENTITY BY COUNTRY



# TIME ONLINE DAILY BY COUNTRY



Questions about this research? Contact [info@avivemos.net](mailto:info@avivemos.net)

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 OneHope. (February 2021). Global Youth Culture, Latin America Report. [www.globalyouthculture.net](http://www.globalyouthculture.net)





# GLOBAL YOUTH CULTURE