

GLOBAL YOUTH CULTURE

*Democratic Republic of
the Congo*

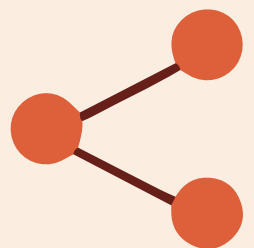
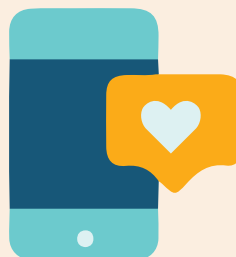


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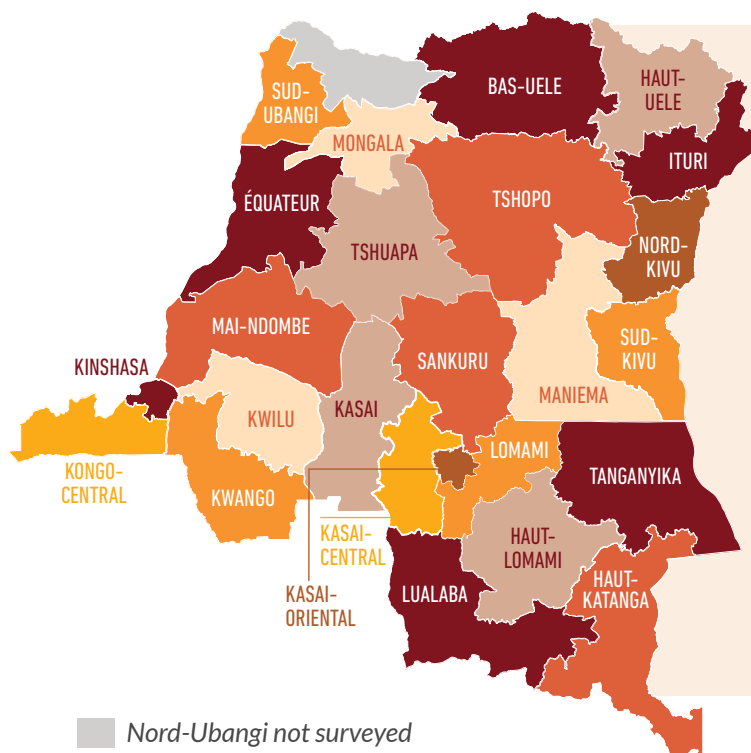
65 ABOUT ONEHOPE

65 ABOUT THE RESEARCH

INTRODUCTION

Each generation brings its own unique strengths and challenges, and research allows us to see the world through their eyes, helping us better meet their needs. Today's young people, often referred to as Generation Z, are no exception.

This project takes a closer look at the perspectives and lives of Congolese youth, providing insights into their experiences amid the country's complex social landscape. Through this research, we gain a deeper understanding of the beliefs, habits, influences and struggles faced by teens across the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), including their views on God, Jesus, the Bible and the church.



Teens were located across 25 of the DRC's 26 provinces in rural, semi-urban and urban areas. Data was collected between October and November 2025. The findings shed light on the experiences shaping the next generation. Since teens were surveyed both online and in person, the results represent the views of a wide range of young people, including those who may not have convenient internet access.

This project was a follow-up from a larger global study conducted in 2020 that surveyed teens across more than 20 countries, including the African nations of Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa. Modified versions of this survey have also been conducted in over 10 additional African countries.

Our hope is that this report not only provides new insights but also moves you to take action on behalf of this generation, who need the hope of the gospel. Each statistic in this study represents a real young person with unique hopes, fears and challenges. Every one of them has a name, a story and an eternal destiny. OneHope is committed to impacting those destinies by reaching young people across the world with God's Word.

Let us listen to what the young people of the DRC have to share with us.

ABOUT THE TEENS

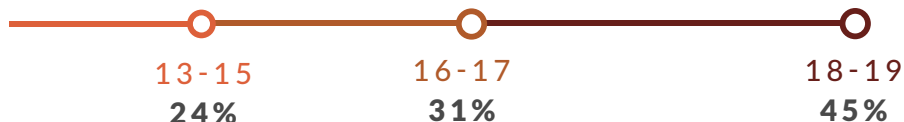


**906 TEENS
SURVEYED**

MALES **53%**

FEMALES **47%**

AGE



RELIGION

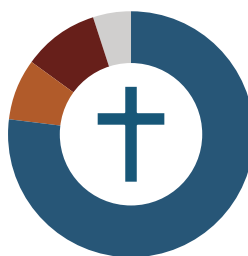
OTHER: 10%

Jehovah's Witnesses: 5%

Other religions: 4%¹

Atheist: 1%

NONE OF THE ABOVE: 5%



CHRISTIAN: 77%

Catholic: 21% of Christian teens

MUSLIM: 8%

LOCATION

68%

URBAN

(50,000 or more)

18%

SEMI-URBAN

(between 2,500 and 50,000)

15%

RURAL

(less than 2,500)

*Surveyed in person
in schools*

56%

Surveyed online

44%

HOUSEHOLD



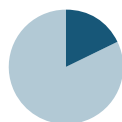
48%

TWO PARENTS²



26%

ONE PARENT



18%

**OTHER FAMILY
MEMBERS**



7%

**OTHER LIVING
SITUATION**

1. Includes less than 2% of each of the following: Hinduism, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Buddhism, Judaism and other.

2. In this document, "parent" and "parents" include stepparents.

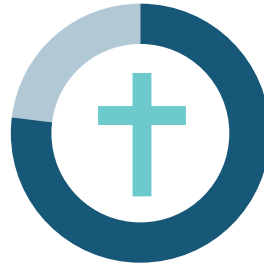
RELIGIOUS ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOURS

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF THE CONGO REPORT

What We Discovered

9 out of 10

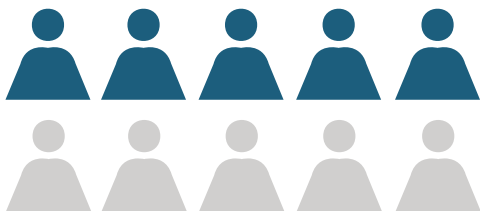
teens say their **faith** is an important part of their **identity**.



77% of the teens we surveyed in the DRC identify as **Christian**.



3 in 5 committed Christian teens say they have **spiritual conversations** at least every week with others who do not share their beliefs.



35% of teens display the beliefs and behaviours of **Committed Christians**: compared with only 7% globally.



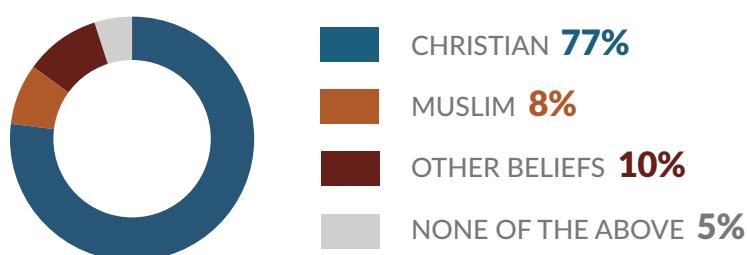
Christian youth generally prefer to read the Bible in **print**, while nearly a quarter use **digital apps**.

Religious Attitudes and Behaviours

This research study was uniquely comprehensive in examining the role faith and religion play in the lives of the young people in the DRC. What do they believe? How are they putting their beliefs into practice? We explored the religious attitudes and behaviours of this generation and the impact of those on other areas of their lives.

The majority of young people in our study identify themselves as Christian (77%), with the remainder being Muslim, followers of other religions or beliefs or none of the above.

RELIGIOUS IDENTITY³



Most young people in the DRC say their religion is important to them: 90% say their faith beliefs or spiritual journey are an important part of their identity.

But what does it truly mean to be a Christian? We looked at the core beliefs and key spiritual disciplines that would reveal a teen is a Committed Christian.

90% OF YOUNG PEOPLE SAY THEIR FAITH IS IMPORTANT TO THEM.

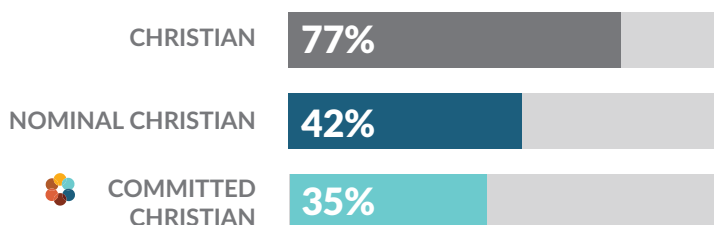
3. Throughout the report, some percentages may not add up to 100% due to decimal rounding.

6 TRAITS OF COMMITTED CHRISTIANS



When we re-examined young people according to this definition of committed faith, we immediately saw a big difference. We discovered that 35% of teens are Committed Christians. Any Christian youth who did not meet one or more of the criteria for committedness was considered to be a “Nominal Christian” in this study.

OVERALL COMMITTEDNESS

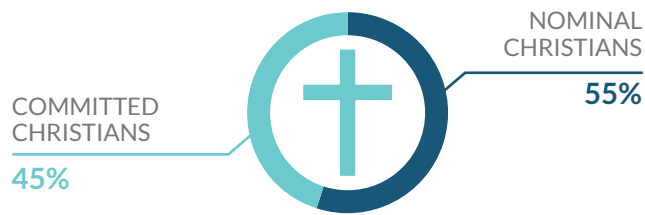


It is encouraging that there are so many Committed Christian teens in the DRC! Globally, only 7% of young people surveyed are Committed Christians.⁴ Still, it is concerning that more Christian teens are considered nominal than committed in their faith.

35% OF YOUNG PEOPLE SURVEYED ARE COMMITTED CHRISTIANS.

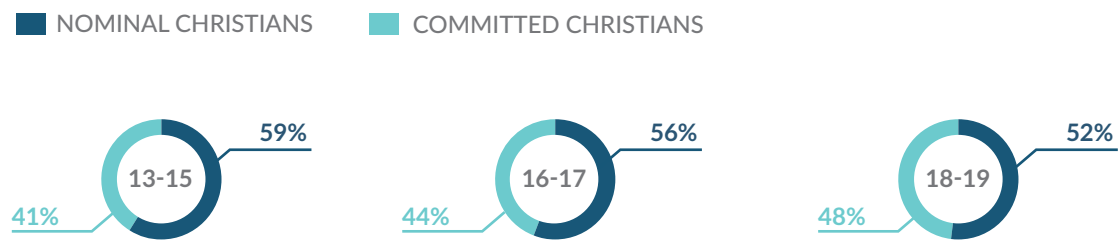
4. OneHope, “Reports and Resources: Global Report”, Global Youth Culture, published August 2020, <https://www.globalyouthculture.net/reports/>.

COMMITTEDNESS AMONG CHRISTIANS



Of the Christian teens we surveyed, slightly less than half (45%) are considered committed, and a slight majority (55%) are considered nominal. This shows there is work to be done in discipling young Christians into the foundational beliefs and practices of their faith.

COMMITTEDNESS BY AGE



This gap between Committeds and Nominals is present more strongly among younger Christian teens than older teens. While nearly half of Christians aged 18 to 19 are committed, only 41% of Christians aged 13 to 15 are committed.

How Young People Practise Their Faith

Engaging in spiritual disciplines contributes to our faith growing. Our data shows teens in the DRC are making religious practices a priority in their weekly schedule.



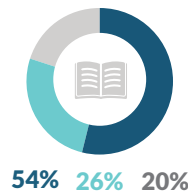
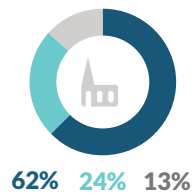
FAITH PRACTICES

■ AT LEAST WEEKLY

■ MONTHLY OR SEVERAL TIMES A YEAR

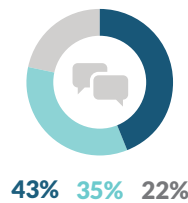
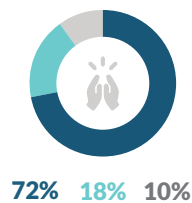
■ NEVER

ATTENDING
RELIGIOUS SERVICES



READING RELIGIOUS
SCRIPTURES ON
THEIR OWN

PRAYING



HAVING SPIRITUAL
CONVERSATIONS

SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINES

■ NOMINAL CHRISTIANS

■ COMMITTED CHRISTIANS



BIBLE READING
Read the Bible at least daily



CHURCH ATTENDANCE
Attend church at least weekly



PRAYER
Pray daily



SHARING THEIR FAITH
Talking about religious or spiritual things at least weekly with people who do not share their beliefs



Committedness to faith makes a big difference in young people's lives and how they choose to spend their time. Committed Christians are much more likely than Nominal Christians to regularly read their Bibles, go to church, pray and share their faith.⁵ Daily Bible reading is noticeably low among Nominal Christians.

29% OF
NOMINAL
CHRISTIANS
NEVER
READ THE BIBLE
ON THEIR OWN.

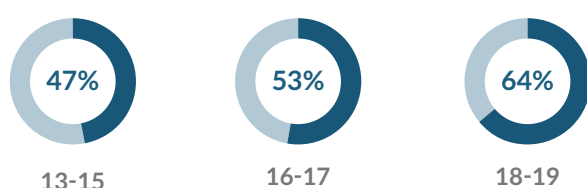
5. Weekly Bible reading and prayer are two of the six characteristics that define a Committed Christian within this research.

Youth and the Bible

Half of Christian young people (56%) are reading the Bible at least weekly, but younger respondents are engaging with Scripture a little less. More than half of Christian young people say they prefer to read the Bible in printed format. One in four say they like to read on an app.

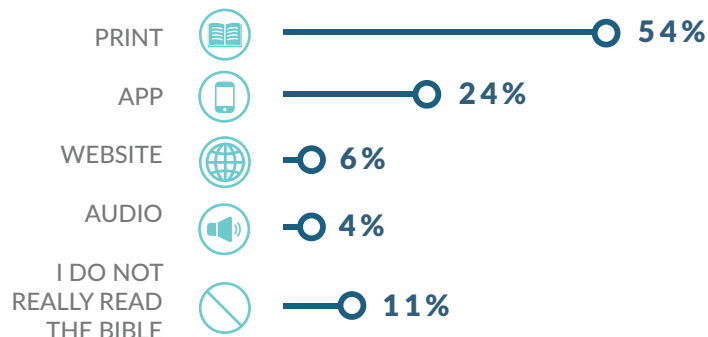
BIBLE READING

Christian young people who say they read the Bible at least weekly



SCRIPTURE FORMAT

How Christians read the Bible



Their Church Experience

We were curious about the impact that children's and youth ministry is having on the lives of teens. The vast majority (94%) of Christian teens in the DRC report that they attended a church's children's ministry. And more than 7 in 10 Christian teens (77%) say their experience in children's ministry plays an important role in their spiritual growth. Males are more likely than females to report that children's ministry plays an important role in their spiritual growth.

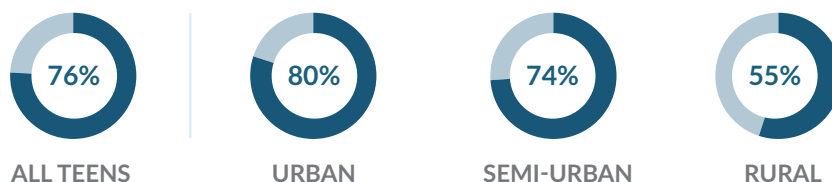
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY IMPACT

A church's children's ministry plays an important role in my spiritual growth.



YOUTH MINISTRY

My church has a pastor or teacher for teens or young adults.



When it comes to youth ministry, we asked teens to report if their church has a dedicated leader for young people their age. More than 7 in 10 teens (76%) report having a dedicated leader.

YOUTH DISCIPLESHIP

■ NOMINAL CHRISTIANS ■ COMMITTED CHRISTIANS

My church does not have a teen or young adults pastor or teacher.



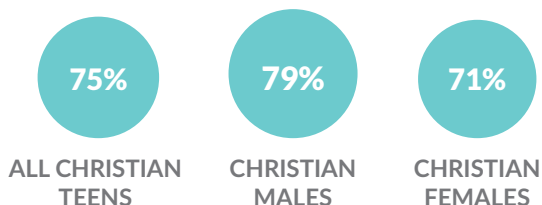
I have an adult mentor at church who is helping me grow spiritually.



Nominal Christians are more likely to say their church does not have a pastor for their age group and less likely to have an adult helping them grow spiritually. These findings highlight the critical role of consistent, spiritually mature adults in the lives of young people—offering wise counsel, guidance and faith-rooted support during formative years.

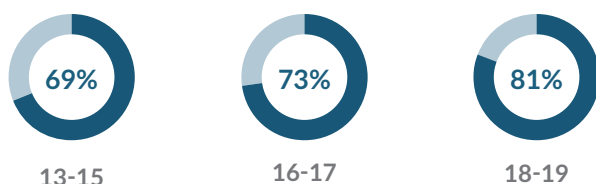
MENTORSHIP

I have an adult mentor at church who is helping me grow spiritually.



MENTORSHIP BY AGE

I have an adult mentor at church who is helping me grow spiritually.



Encouragingly, three-quarters of Christian teens (75%) report having an adult at church who is mentoring them, and nearly 7 in 10 Christian teens (68%) say they talk about life issues or concerns with leaders at their church. Males are more likely than females to say they have someone mentoring them, and older teens are more likely than younger teens to report having a mentor.

Spiritual Viewpoints

The vast majority of teens surveyed in the DRC—Christians and non-Christians alike—say spirituality is very important to them: 9 in 10 say their faith beliefs or spiritual journey are an important part of their identity.

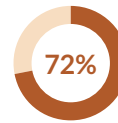
The majority of the teens surveyed also have a scriptural view of God, Jesus and the Bible. More than 4 in 5 teens (80%) agree that God exists and that they can have a personal relationship with Him, that Jesus is the Son of God, and that the Bible is the Word of God. This appears to be a viewpoint that is present regardless of age, as younger teens are just as likely as older teens to hold all three of these views.

Muslims generally agree with the idea of having a personal relationship with God but are more divided over Jesus and the Bible.

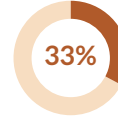
41% OF MUSLIMS
SAY THEY NEVER
THINK ABOUT JESUS.

SCRIPTURAL VIEWPOINTS BY RELIGION

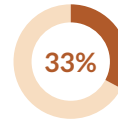
God exists, and I can have a personal relationship with Him.



Jesus is the Son of God.



The Bible is the Word of God.



CHRISTIANS

MUSLIMS

What Changes Their Mind

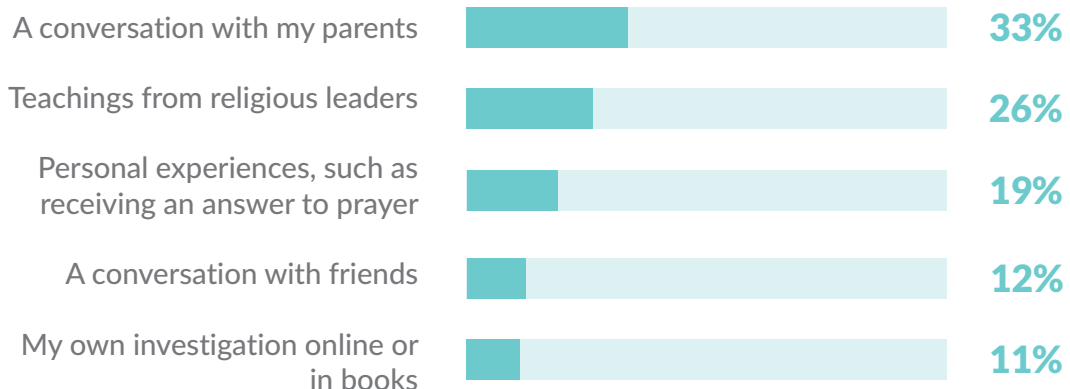
When asked what might cause them to reconsider a religious belief they already hold, teens most commonly point to conversations with their parents. This stands in contrast to global trends, where personal experiences are often cited as the strongest influence.

35% OF MUSLIMS NEVER THINK ABOUT THE BIBLE.

Compared to their peers globally, these teens place less emphasis on individual experiences and greater value on communal learning—particularly guidance from parents and religious leaders.

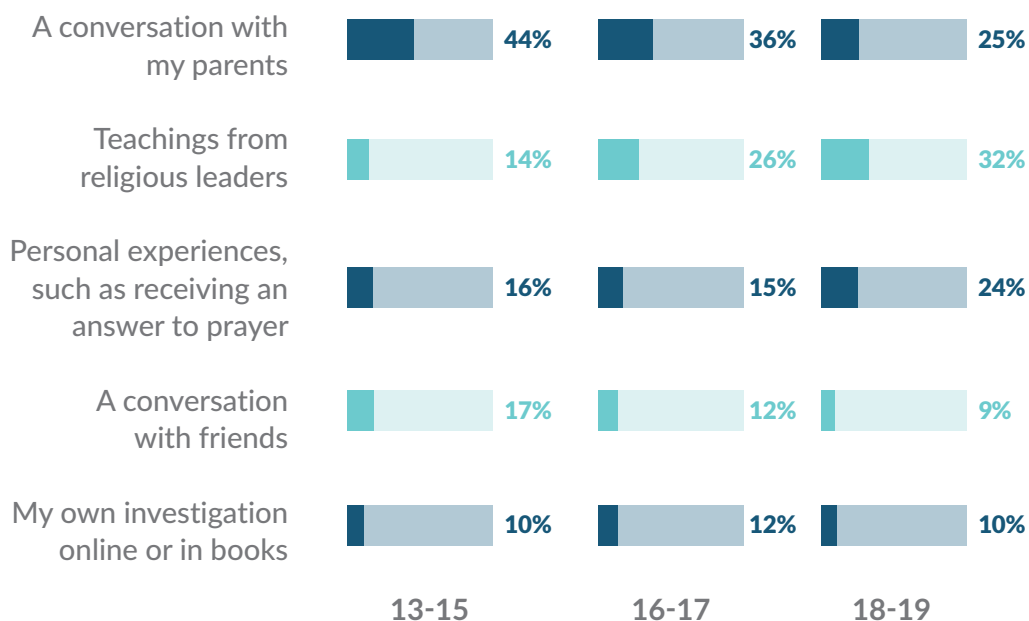
INFLUENCES ON FAITH

What is most likely to change your mind about a religious belief?



INFLUENCES ON FAITH BY AGE

What is most likely to change your mind about a religious belief?



Conversations with parents or friends are more impactful on younger teens, while religious leaders and personal experiences have more influence on older teens. Nominal Christians are more likely than Committed Christians to report being influenced by conversations with friends or by their own independent investigation through online sources or books.



Conclusion

This data shows where young people are in their spiritual journey and helps us understand their religious identity, habits and viewpoints. It also points us towards practical action as we seek to share the gospel with nonbelievers and disciple Christian young people to maturity in faith.

- **DISCIPLE CHRISTIANS INTO DEEPER FAITH**

Young people in the DRC say their faith is important to them, and most of them are Christian. However, this does not mean the church should grow complacent. Our research revealed that many of these believers have a nominal faith and need to be discipled.

How can we help young people develop scriptural beliefs and spiritual disciplines that will move them from being nominal believers to mature, thriving Christians?

- **EQUIP YOUNG PEOPLE TO SHARE**

Even though their faith is an important part of their lives, less than half of Christian teens are actually talking to others who do not share their beliefs. More Committed Christians are doing so—but among Nominal Christians, less than a third are sharing their faith with others.

How can we equip young people to joyfully share the hope they have in Christ with their peers and others who need to hear?

- **STRENGTHEN SCRIPTURE ENGAGEMENT EARLY**

Many teens engage with Scripture, but consistent Bible reading—especially daily engagement—remains limited, particularly among Nominal Christians and younger teens. This suggests that habits of Scripture engagement are not yet firmly established.

How can we help young people build meaningful, consistent rhythms of engaging with God's Word—starting at younger ages?

- **FOR OUTREACH: START WITH GOD**

The data revealed differences in how Muslims view God compared to their views on Jesus and the Bible. When thinking about outreach to Muslim teens, sharing scriptural teachings about Jesus and the Bible may be a challenging place to start. However, there is strong agreement on the possibility of having a personal relationship with God.

How can we invite young people to explore God's character or ask questions and share the hope of the gospel in response to these entry points?

INFLUENCES AND GUIDING VOICES

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF THE CONGO REPORT

What We Discovered



Young people say parents are their most important influence.

They turn to family first for **advice** and information.



Parental influence decreases as young people grow older and the influence of **religious leaders and texts** grows.



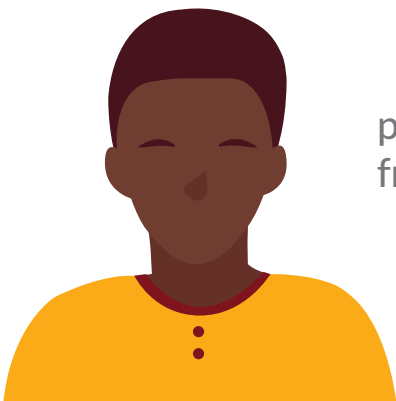
More than **1 in 4** young people (27%) have recently been **bullied online.**



Nominal Christians are more likely than Committed Christians to turn to **friends** or peers **for advice** on questions of morality, the meaning of life, and gender and sexuality.



90% of young people have close friends who know them well.



Identity and Community

We were curious what teens have to say about their identity, community, and friend and family relationships. Teens in general place a high priority on individuality. In past Global Research Reports, African countries were globally the most likely for teens to say it is important to be a unique individual who stands out from those around them.⁶ Young people often place a high priority on individuality, and teens in DRC are no exception.

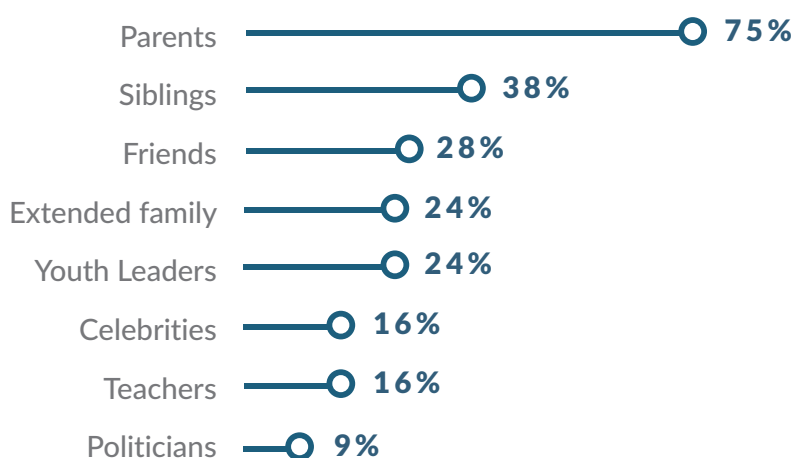
We were also curious how teens view their relationship to their community. Teens in Africa are seen to be highly community oriented, and the DRC follows this trend. The vast majority of teens (93%) say it is important for them to contribute to the wellbeing of their community.

Family Relationships

When asked who influences their ambitions in life, teens point to parents as by far the most popular option. Siblings and friends are also common role models. Perhaps unsurprisingly, parental influence is stronger amongst younger teens, while a youth leader's influence increases with the age of the teen. Committed Christians are generally more influenced by parents, friends and youth leaders than Nominal Christians.

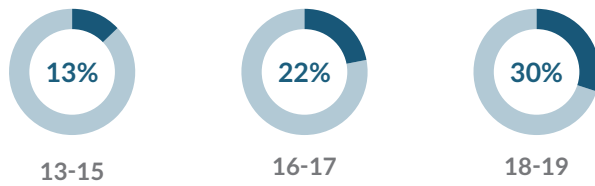
INFLUENCES ON AMBITION

Who influences your ambitions in life? (Select all that apply.)



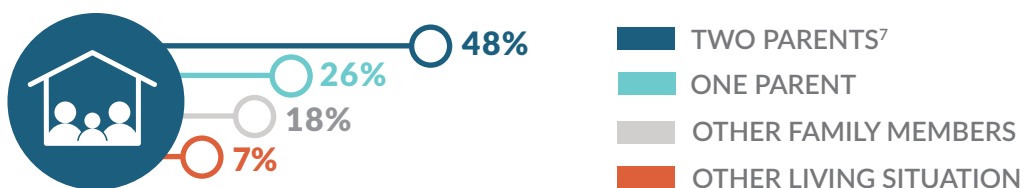
6. OneHope, "Reports and Resources: Regional Reports and Resources: Africa", Global Youth Culture, published 2021, <https://www.globalyouthculture.net/reports>

YOUTH LEADERS' INFLUENCE BY TEENS' AGE



HOUSEHOLD

I live with:



We wanted to know a little more about young people's family relationships and how they are going. Around half of the teens surveyed in the DRC live with both parents. Despite many teens not living with both parents, the majority of young people (88%) still say their family experience has been positive.

FAMILY EXPERIENCE

Overall, my family experience has been good.



88% OF YOUNG PEOPLE SAY THEIR FAMILY EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN GOOD.

PARENT CONVERSATIONS

I talk to my parents/guardians about issues that really matter to me.



7. In this document, "parent" and "parents" include stepparents.

Family conversations can be an indication of closeness and connection. Most teens (4 in 5) say they talk to their parents at least sometimes about issues that really matter to them. While girls and boys are equally likely to talk to their parents, older teens are more likely to do so more often than their younger counterparts.

Young People Trust Family

Teens tell us they turn to family more often than any other source for information or guidance on some of life's most important topics, such as the meaning of life and what is right and wrong. Friends or peers are the second most popular source of guidance about the meaning of life, whereas religious leaders or texts rank second for the topic of right and wrong.

Conversations about the **MEANING OF LIFE**

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

- 1** FAMILY 56%
- 2** FRIENDS/PEERS 16%
- 3** RELIGIOUS LEADERS/TEXTS 12%
- 4** TEACHERS/COUNSELLORS 7%
- 5** ONLINE/SOCIAL MEDIA 5%
- 6** OFFLINE MEDIA⁸ 4%

Conversations about **RIGHT AND WRONG**

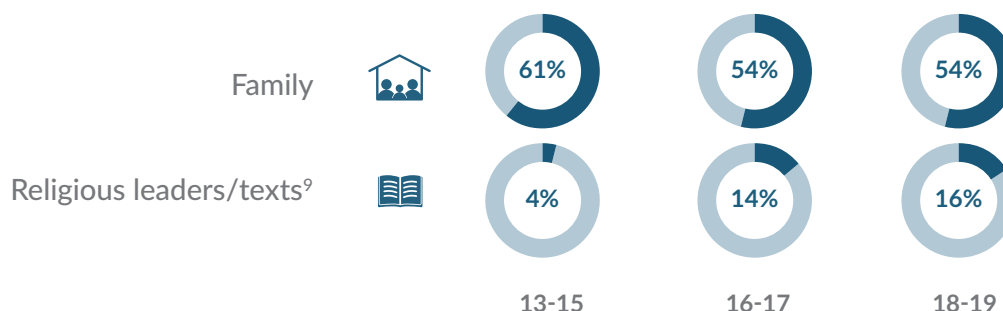
*Where I go most often for
information or guidance
about right and wrong:*

- 1** FAMILY 50%
- 2** RELIGIOUS LEADERS/TEXTS 19%
- 3** FRIENDS/PEERS 15%
- 4** TEACHERS/COUNSELLORS 9%
- 5** ONLINE/SOCIAL MEDIA 6%
- 6** OFFLINE MEDIA 2%

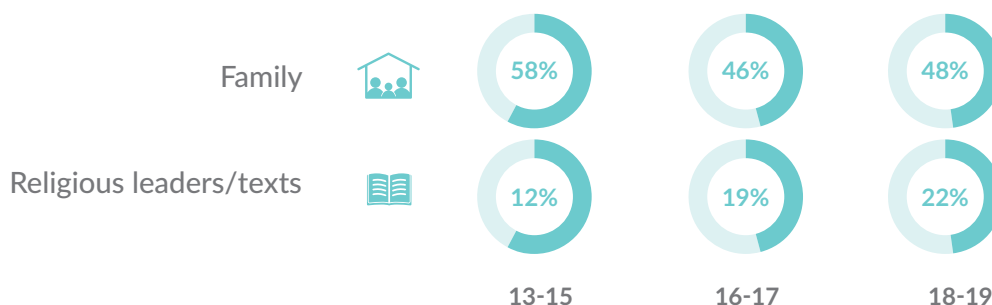
8. Includes books, magazines, television, radio or newspapers.

INFLUENCES BY AGE

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



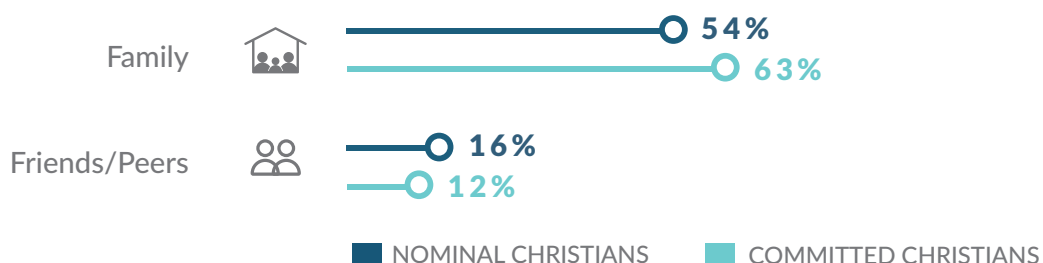
Where I go most often for information or guidance about what is *right and wrong*:



Age plays a role in who teens listen to. As teens get older, they report going to family less often for advice, and the influence of religious leaders and texts is seen to grow. It is encouraging to see teens maturing in their personal faith and seeking out religious influences on some of life's most important topics.

CHRISTIAN TEENS RESPOND

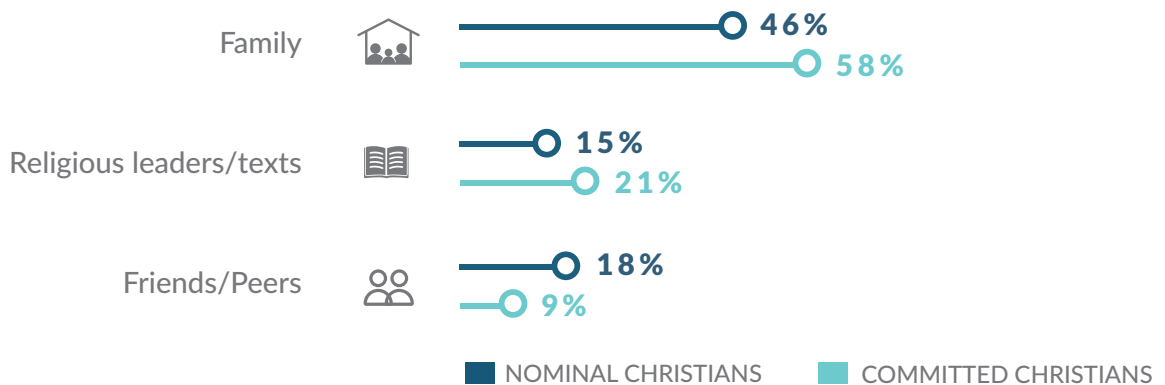
Where I go most often for information or guidance about the *meaning of life*:



9. Note that religious leaders or texts rank third, after friends/peers (not shown on this list).

CHRISTIAN TEENS RESPOND

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



Conversations about **GENDER AND SEXUALITY**

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

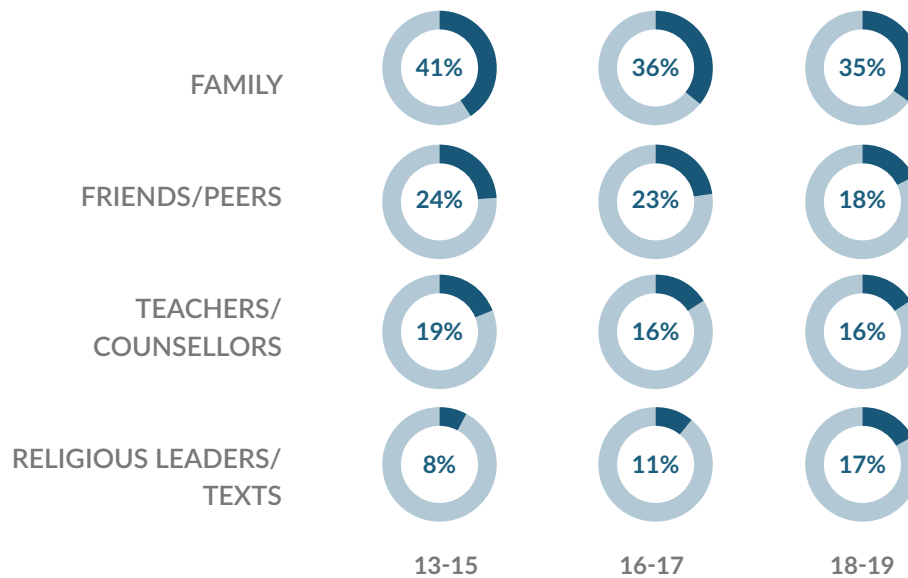
- 1 FAMILY **37%**
- 2 FRIENDS/PEERS **21%**
- 3 TEACHERS/COUNSELLORS **17%**
- 4 RELIGIOUS LEADERS/TEXTS **13%**
- 5 ONLINE/SOCIAL MEDIA **11%**
- 6 OFFLINE MEDIA¹⁰ **2%**

We also asked teens to share with us where they go for guidance about complex topics like gender and sexuality. Teens still look to family most often for guidance on these topics, followed by seeking guidance from friends and peers.

10. Includes books, magazines, television, radio or newspapers.

INFLUENCES ON GENDER AND SEXUALITY VIEWS BY AGE

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



Whereas religious leaders carry more authority on the topic of right and wrong, they rank below the top three when it comes to gender and sexuality. However, their influence on these topics increases amongst older teens. Nominal Christians (22%) rely on friends or peers more than Committed Christians (16%) do.

The data shows that the vast majority of teens rely on in-person relationships for guidance, with only 11% saying they look online or turn to social media. Interestingly, teens in rural areas are more likely to turn to social media and other online sources for guidance on gender and sexuality.

Friendships and Community

Encouragingly, the majority of young people in the DRC (90%) indicate they have strong friendships in their lives.

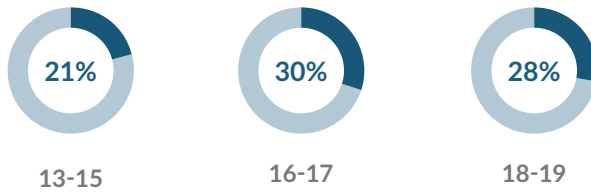
FRIENDSHIPS

I have close friends who know me well.



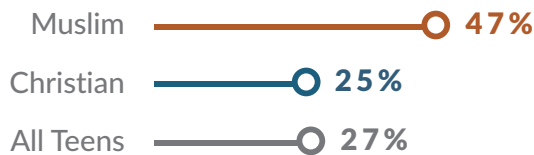
BULLYING BY AGE

Been bullied by someone online in the past three months:



BULLYING BY RELIGION

Been bullied by someone online in the past three months:



Unfortunately, some young people have experienced bullying online in the past three months. One in four young people report they have recently been bullied by someone online. Online bullying is a much more common experience for Muslims in comparison to Christians. Older teens are also slightly more likely than younger teens to report being bullied online.



Conclusion

As today's young people navigate life's complex issues and questions, the voices they are listening to are critical. The sources young people trust and turn to shed insight on what they will believe. And what they believe has profound implications for how they will behave.

- **FAMILY HAS A CRITICAL ROLE**

Encouragingly, young people report that parents are a primary influence on their lives. Young people trust their family members as guides for life's most important questions. Parents should not take lightly the privilege they have of speaking into their child's life, especially while they are young and most ready to listen.

How can we equip families to step into this important role of discipling their children and young people within the home?

- **EQUIP YOUTH LEADERS AND MENTORS**

We were glad to see that young people rank religious leaders and texts as important moral influences right after their family members. It is also encouraging that the influence of youth leaders grows dramatically as teens get older, pointing to a key window of opportunity for impact. This highlights the importance of having wise, scripturally-grounded, spirit-led mentors who can walk alongside young people as they navigate life's questions and challenges. These leaders play a critical role not only in teaching truth but in helping teens apply God's Word in meaningful and practical ways.

How can we equip and support youth leaders and mentors to intentionally disciple teens and guide them toward lasting faith?

- **STRONG COMMUNITY IS ESSENTIAL**

It is encouraging that most young people have close friends in addition to positive family relationships. However, some young people are experiencing challenging situations due to online bullying and may need extra support.

How can we come alongside young people, advocate boldly against bullying in all its forms, and encourage them to speak up and share authentically with trusted people who are ready to support them?

- **ENGAGE THE INFLUENCE OF FRIENDSHIPS**

It is encouraging that the vast majority of young people have close friends who know them well. Yet friendships can either build up or tear down a young person's faith.

How can we equip Christian teens to be positive spiritual influences within their friendships? How can we intentionally disciple teens who can then disciple their friends?

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES AND STRUGGLES

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF THE CONGO REPORT

What We Discovered



At least 1 in 3 young people report being **lonely or depressed** recently. Many are also dealing with **high anxiety**.

More than **1 in 10** teens have had **suicidal thoughts**, and nearly as many report having made a **suicide attempt** recently.



Committed Christians are just as likely as other young people to **experience some mental health struggles**, but are less likely to be **sexually active** or engaged in substance abuse.



Pornography use is widespread, with **1 in 3** teens reporting recent use. Boys and girls—and Committed and Nominal Christians—are impacted almost equally.



More than half of young people have **experienced or witnessed violence** that deeply affected them—and of these, 3 in 10 received no support or care after the experience.

Mental Health

We asked young people to tell us about their personal experiences and struggles over the past three months of their lives. Teens in the DRC were up front in telling us that they are dealing with some serious personal struggles. More than 2 in 5 reported feeling lonely recently, 1 in 3 reported depression, and 1 in 4 reported high anxiety.

MENTAL HEALTH STRUGGLES

Within the past three months I have experienced:



LONELINESS
44%



DEPRESSION
33%



HIGH ANXIETY
24%

Mental health struggles do not discriminate by age or gender. Younger and older teens have similar rates of anxiety, loneliness, and depression—and so do males and females. Unfortunately, these mental health concerns also do not change even if a young person is a Committed Christian.

Suicide

We asked young people to self-report if they had experienced suicidal thoughts or made a suicide attempt within the last three months. Sadly, findings indicate that some young people have had these experiences. More than 1 in 10 DRC teens report having suicidal thoughts, and nearly as many report having made a suicide attempt.

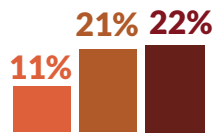
SUICIDE RISK

Within the past three months I have ...

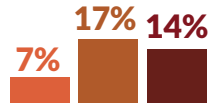


SUICIDE RISK BY RELIGION

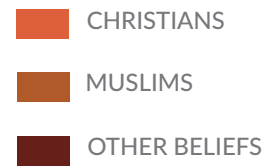
Within the past three months, I have ...



Had suicidal thoughts



Made a suicide attempt



This issue is not just one facing young people outside of the church. However, compared with Christians, we found that Muslims and those with other beliefs are twice as likely to have suicidal thoughts and to attempt suicide.

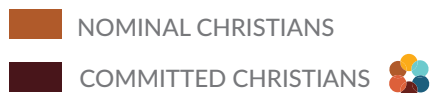
CHRISTIAN TEENS RESPOND

Within the past three months, I have ...

Had suicidal thoughts



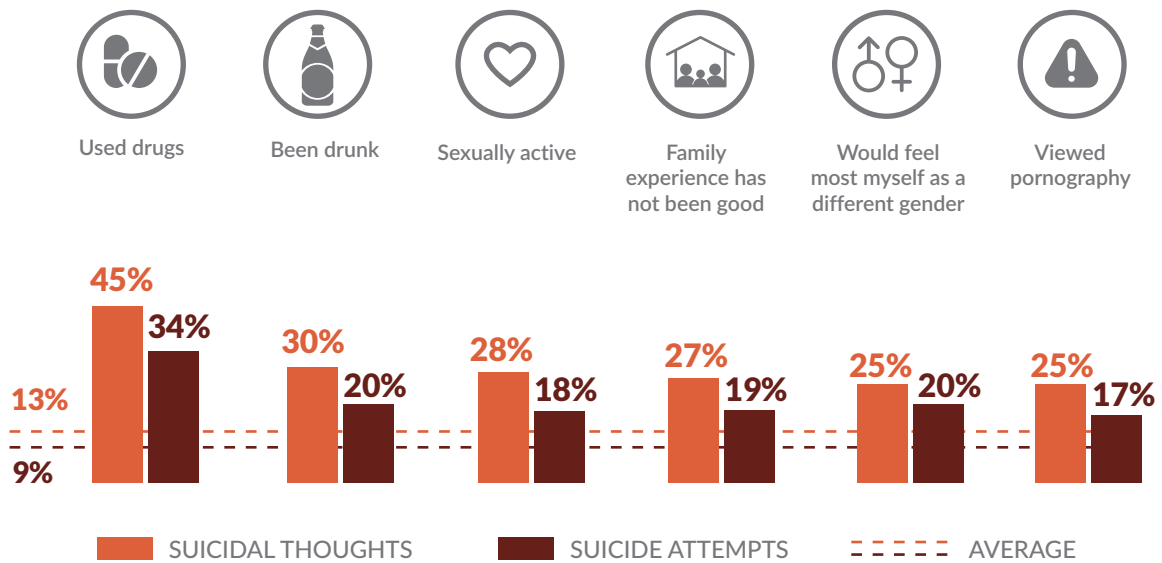
Made a suicide attempt



And among Christians, we observed that Committed Christians report much lower levels of suicidal thoughts and attempts than Nominal Christians.



6 CONNECTIONS WITH SUICIDE RISK



Suicide risk is closely connected with other struggles young people are facing. Our research showed that young people in the DRC who have recently used recreational drugs or been drunk are much more likely to have suicidal thoughts or to make an attempt. Of young people who have used drugs, 45% have suicidal thoughts, and 34% have made an attempt. Issues of sexuality are also highly connected to suicide risk, including being sexually active, experiencing gender confusion and viewing pornography. In addition, teens with difficult family experiences are more likely to struggle with suicidal thoughts or even to attempt suicide.

It is not necessarily a single event or experience that triggers young people to try to take their lives 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 young people are in seriously dark places that are driving them towards desperate action.

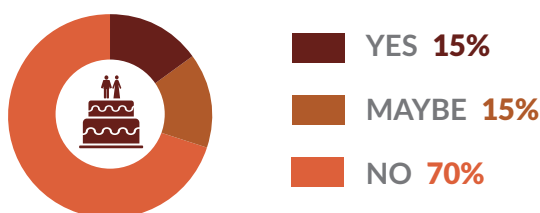
We should be heartbroken for young people who are hurting so deeply that they want to end their lives. When it comes to suicide, we are not looking at numbers on a page—but at real people's lives. Any number is too many and any percentage too high.

Sexuality

The teenage years can be a time when young people experiment with their sexuality and re-examine their opinions about sex. This was a topic we specifically asked young people to share about. Most young people in the DRC say it is not okay to have sex before marriage.

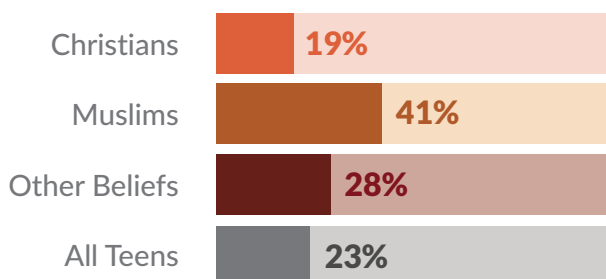
VIEWS ON PREMARITAL SEX

Do you believe it is okay to have sex before marriage?



SEXUALLY ACTIVE BY RELIGION

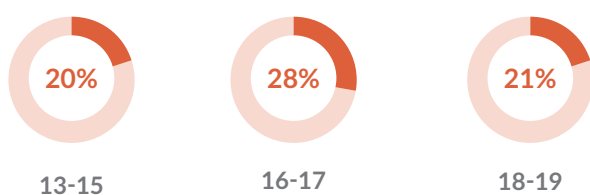
Within the past three months:



Among teens overall, nearly 1 in 4 (23%) report being sexually active in the past three months.¹¹ Approximately 1 in 5 Christians (19%)—and 1 in 3 non-Christians (34%)—report being sexually active recently. Sexual activity is also higher among 16- to 17-year-olds. There is no difference by gender.

SEXUALLY ACTIVE BY AGE

Within the past three months:



11. In the survey, we allowed teens to define for themselves what it means to be sexually active. Married teens were excluded to ensure this statistic represented only sex outside the context of marriage.

CHRISTIAN TEENS RESPOND

I have been sexually active within the past three months:



■ NOMINAL CHRISTIANS

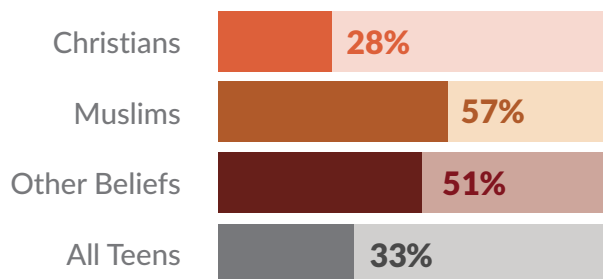
■ COMMITTED CHRISTIANS



The data revealed that more Committed Christian teens oppose premarital sex (82%) as compared with Nominal Christians (71%). However, Committed Christians are not making vastly different choices in this area, with 16% saying that they have been sexually active recently.

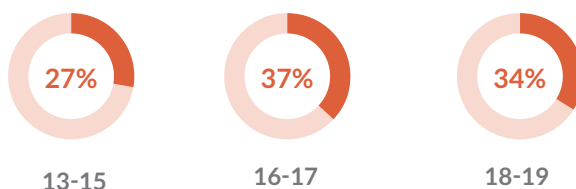
PORNOGRAPHY USAGE

Within the past three months:



PORNOGRAPHY USAGE BY AGE

Within the past three months:



Another sexual issue that follows many of these same trends is viewing pornography. One in three teens in the DRC (33%) report looking at pornographic material recently.

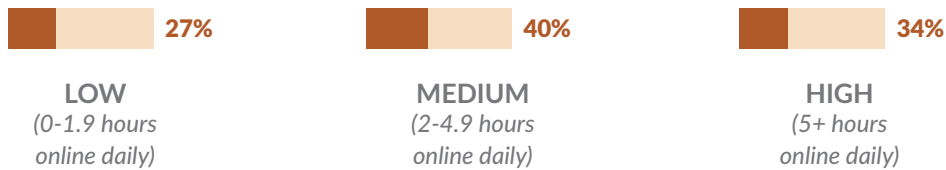
1 IN 3 TEENS
RECENTLY VIEWED
PORNOGRAPHY.

Pornography is much more common among Muslims and other non-Christian teens. However, more than 1 in 4 Christian teens also report viewing pornography recently. Even more sadly, Committed Christians are just as likely as Nominal Christians to view pornography.

Viewing pornography is higher among 16- to 17-year-olds than among younger teens. Boys and girls are equally likely to look at pornography. In addition, teens who spend less than 2 hours online each day are less likely to view pornography, compared with those who spend more time online.

PORNOGRAPHY USAGE BY TIME ONLINE

I have viewed porn within the past three months:



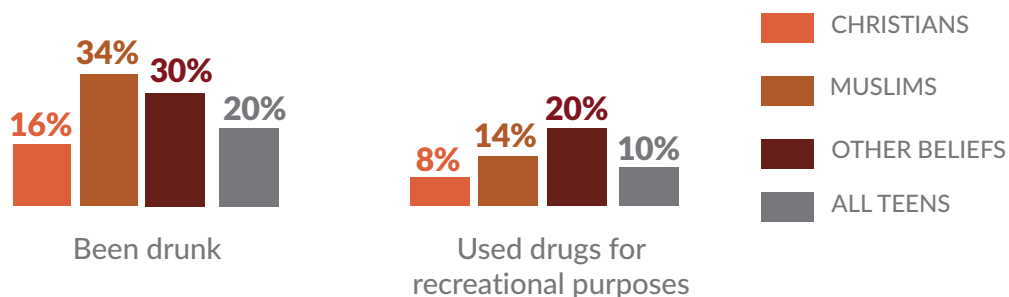
Alcohol and Drug Usage

The challenges young people face are not always visible from the outside. Our research revealed several other challenges teens in Africa are facing. One in five teens (20%) report recently being drunk. This number is not far from the global average (24%).¹² Using drugs recreationally is less common than getting drunk, with 1 in 10 teens (10%) reporting this. Males are slightly more likely than females to report struggling in both of these areas.

Surprisingly, alcohol use is only slightly lower among 13- to 15-year-olds (15%) than among older teens (21%). Drug use does not vary by age. Christians are less likely than teens from other religions to engage in either of these behaviours. Even fewer Committed Christians participate in them. However, 1 in 10 Committed Christian teens still report having been drunk recently.

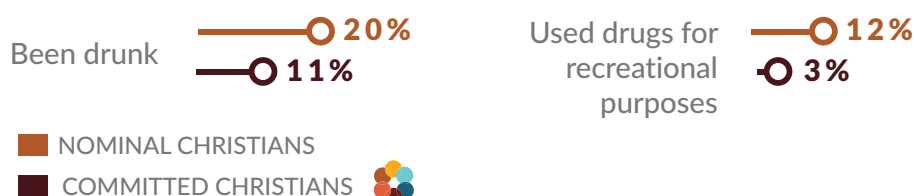
ALCOHOL AND DRUG USAGE

Within the past three months, I have:



CHRISTIAN TEENS RESPOND

Within the past three months, I have:

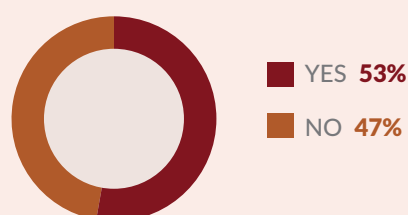


12. OneHope. "Reports and Resources: Global Report".

Exposure to Violent Events and Trauma

Shockingly, over half of the teens surveyed (53%) report that they have experienced or witnessed a violent event—such as displacement, an armed attack or the loss of a loved one—that deeply affected them. Older teens are slightly more likely to report such experiences. Girls and boys are equally likely to have seen or lived through these events. Similarly, teens in urban, semi-urban, and rural areas are equally likely to be affected.

Have you ever experienced or witnessed a violent event (such as displacement, an armed attack or the loss of a loved one) that deeply affected you?

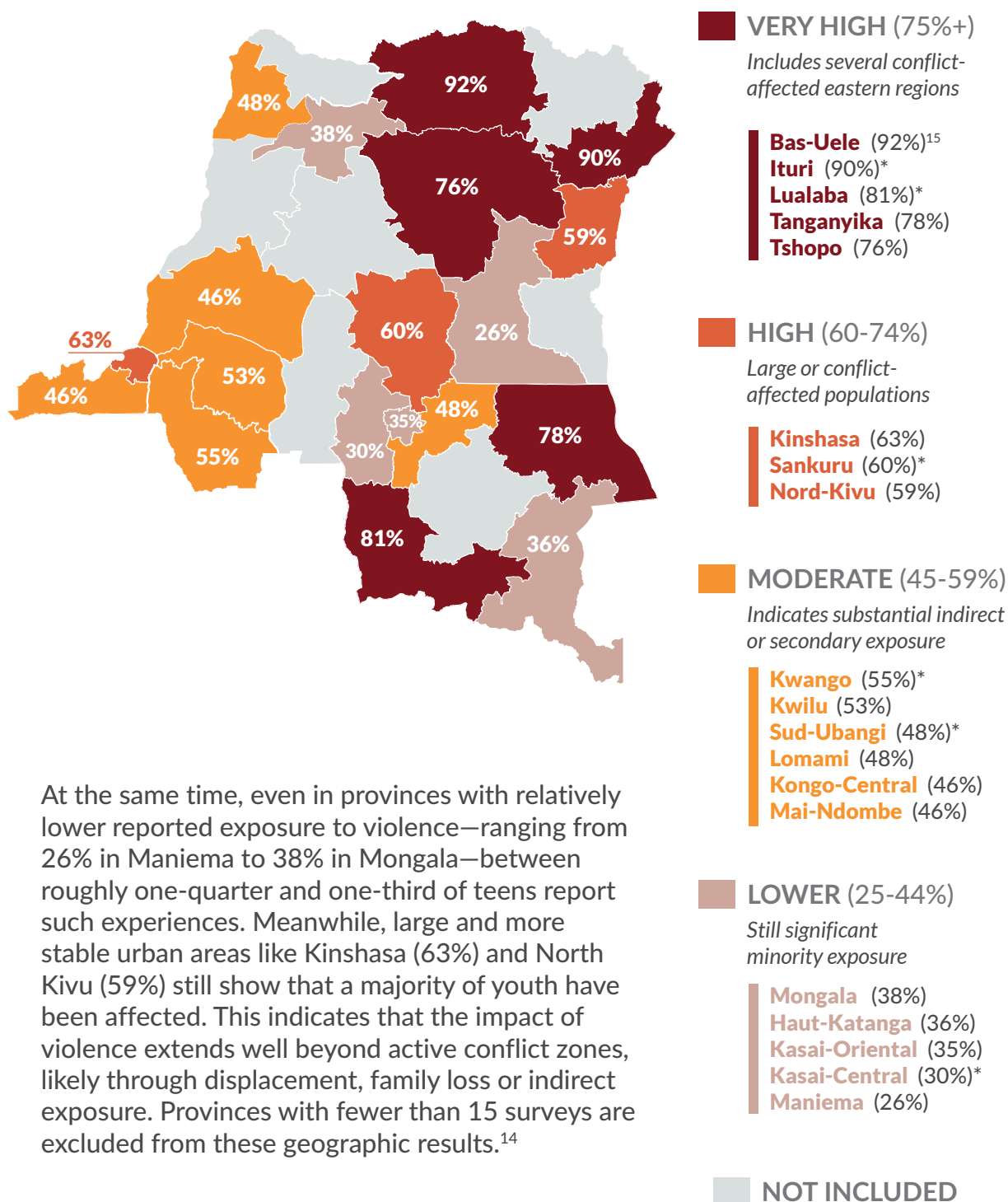


Geographically, exposure to violent events among teens in the DRC is widespread but unevenly distributed across provinces. In several conflict-affected regions—particularly Bas-Uele, Ituri, Tanganyika and Tshopo—between 76% and 92% of teens report having experienced or witnessed a violent event. These findings align with known patterns of instability in eastern DRC and suggest that in these areas, exposure to violence is widespread and affects a large majority of youth.¹³ This highlights the disproportionate impact of violence on youth in certain regions, indicating a need for targeted interventions.

OVER HALF (53%) OF TEENS REPORT EXPERIENCING OR WITNESSING A VIOLENT EVENT THAT HAS DEEPLY AFFECTED THEM.

13. UNHCR, “Democratic Republic of the Congo”, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, accessed 17 February 2026, <https://www.unhcr.org/africa/where-we-work/countries/democratic-republic-congo>

I have experienced or witnessed a violent event that deeply affected me.



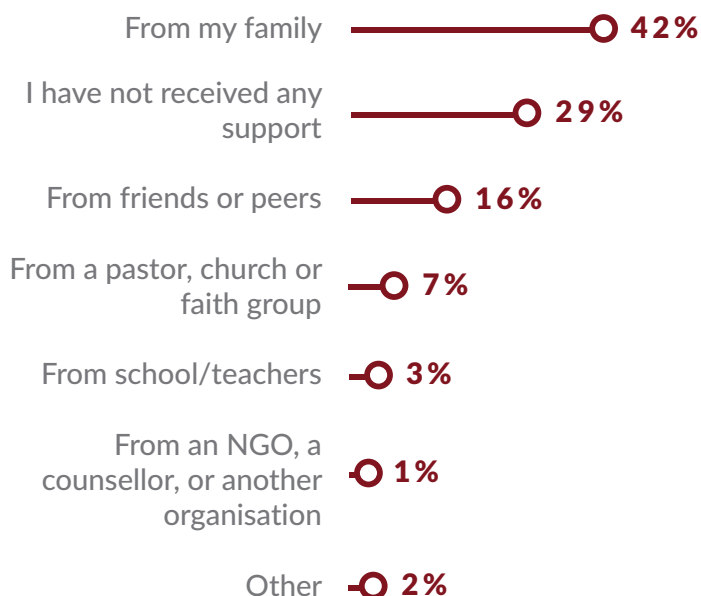
At the same time, even in provinces with relatively lower reported exposure to violence—ranging from 26% in Maniema to 38% in Mongala—between roughly one-quarter and one-third of teens report such experiences. Meanwhile, large and more stable urban areas like Kinshasa (63%) and North Kivu (59%) still show that a majority of youth have been affected. This indicates that the impact of violence extends well beyond active conflict zones, likely through displacement, family loss or indirect exposure. Provinces with fewer than 15 surveys are excluded from these geographic results.¹⁴

14. The following provinces with fewer than 15 survey responses are excluded due to less reliable percentage estimates: Équateur, Haut-Lomami, Haut-Uele, Kasai, Nord-Ubangi, South Kivu and Tshuapa.

15. The results for a province marked with an asterisk should be interpreted with caution due to fewer survey responses (15-29) and are best understood as directional rather than precise estimates.

RECEIVING SUPPORT OR CARE

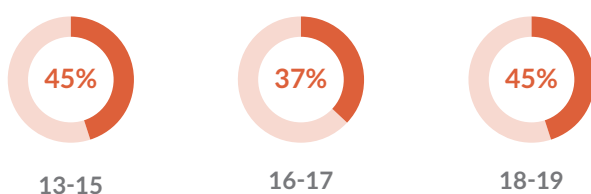
I have received support or care after going through difficult experiences.¹⁶



Among those who reported experiencing or witnessing violence, 3 in 10 teens (29%) say they have not received any support or care after going through that difficult experience. Younger teens ages 13-15 are more likely not to have received support (39%) than 16- to 19-year-olds (26%). Among those who did receive support, family was by far the primary source, with friends ranking as a distant second.

RECOVERY FROM DIFFICULT EXPERIENCES BY AGE

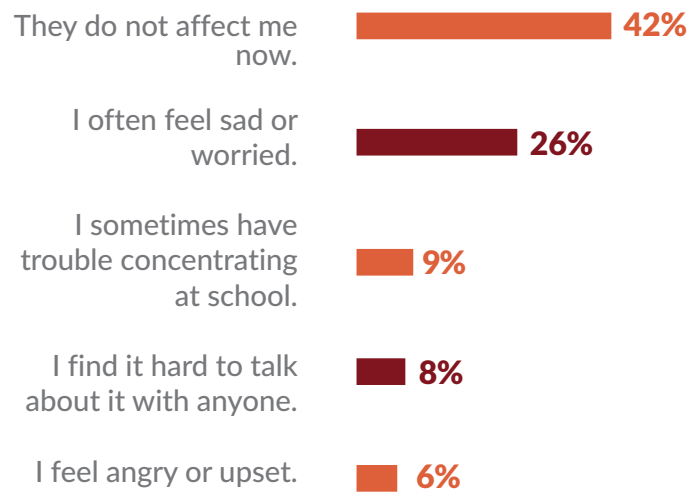
They do not affect me now.



¹⁶ Results are for teens who reported experiencing or witnessing a violent event that deeply affected them (53% of all teens surveyed).

IMPACT OF DIFFICULT EXPERIENCES

When you think about these difficult experiences, how do they affect your life today?



Nearly 3 in 5 teens (58%) mention ways that these difficult experiences continue to affect their lives today, and 1 in 4 teens say they often feel sad or worried as a result of these experiences.



Conclusion

This data can paint a sad picture of how life looks when seen through the eyes of young people. The daily experiences and struggles young people face can seem overwhelming, but it is important to start by listening and understanding before we turn to action. Here are some things to consider:

- **MENTAL HEALTH MATTERS**

A large number of teens report experiencing loneliness, depression and anxiety, with many continuing to feel the effects of difficult life experiences. These challenges are widespread and affect young people across all backgrounds.

How can we help young people feel seen, supported and pointed to the hope that the gospel holds for their lives?

- **SUICIDE RISK IS SERIOUS**

More than 1 in 10 DRC teens report having suicidal thoughts recently, and nearly as many have made an attempt. While faith makes a meaningful difference—Committed Christians report much lower rates than Nominal Christians or non-Christians—this crisis touches young people across all backgrounds.

How can churches and youth workers be alert to these warning signs and ensure the young people they know are being cared for holistically—both emotionally and spiritually?

- **STRUGGLES ARE CONNECTED**

Young people are likely to be struggling in multiple areas of their lives. Drug and alcohol use and issues of sexuality are strongly linked to suicide risk. Even a strong, committed faith does not entirely insulate teens from temptations or mental health challenges.

How can we encourage young people to seek help, rather than hide their struggles, and ensure they feel supported rather than shamed for their thoughts and actions? How can we help teens navigate challenges and pressures with honesty and a gospel-centred community that encourages godly choices?

- **NAVIGATING SEX AND PORNOGRAPHY IS A CHALLENGE**

One in three teens in the DRC have viewed pornography recently, and nearly 1 in 4 have been sexually active. These behaviours increase during the late-teen years (ages 16-17). Pornography use is linked to higher screen time and appears to affect boys and girls nearly equally.

As young people in the DRC come of age, how can we help them develop a biblical understanding of sexuality—one that offers them dignity, clarity and freedom—especially as they navigate an increasingly digital world?

- **THE WOUND OF VIOLENCE IS REAL AND LARGELY UNADDRESSED**

More than half of teens have experienced or witnessed violence, and many received no support afterward. Where support was received, it came almost entirely from family—with very little from churches, schools or organisations. This reveals both the widespread impact of trauma and a critical gap in care.

How can ministries and local churches provide meaningful care and healing for young people carrying the weight of trauma? How can we identify those in need and come alongside them with consistent support for their emotional and spiritual needs?

GENDER IDENTITY

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF THE CONGO REPORT

What We Discovered

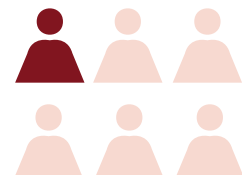
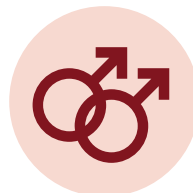


Most young people believe gender is **based on sex at birth**. **One in five** say they are **confused** about this question.



Around **1 in 6** teens report experiencing **gender identity confusion** recently, with higher rates among 16- to 17-year-olds and non-Christian teens.

Around **1 in 6** teens report experiencing **same-sex attraction** recently, with similar rates among boys and girls.



Most teens hold **traditional views** on **marriage and sexuality**, though some express uncertainty—especially around sex before marriage.



Family is the top source of **guidance** on **gender and sexuality**, followed by friends and peers. Only 1 in 10 teens turn to digital or online sources.

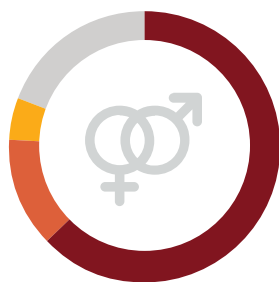
Gender Identity

Conversations around gender identity and sexuality are becoming more common among this generation in many parts of the world. We wanted to find out what the viewpoints of young people in the DRC are.

Three in five young people (63%) say they believe gender is primarily based on a person's sex at birth. Nearly 1 in 5 respondents say they do not understand the question, which may indicate a lack of awareness about these issues at all.

VIEW OF GENDER

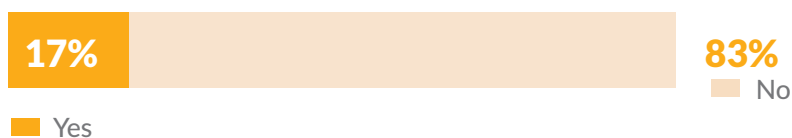
Gender is primarily based on:



- Sex at birth **63%**
- A person's feelings or desires **13%**
- The way society sees a person **5%**
- I am confused by this question **19%**

GENDER IDENTITY CONFUSION

Within the past three months:

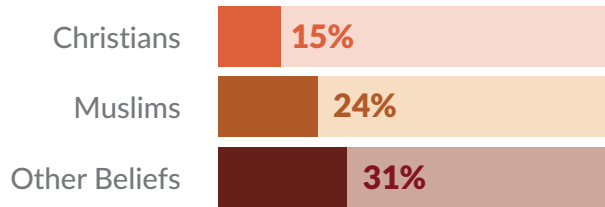


We also asked young people about their personal experience of gender identity confusion. Around 1 in 6 (17%) report experiencing gender identity confusion recently.

Christians are less likely to struggle with their gender identity, compared with teens from other religions. However, among Christians, this issue is equally common among Committed and Nominal believers.

GENDER IDENTITY CONFUSION BY RELIGION

Within the past three months:



GENDER STRUGGLES

In the past three months, have you felt you would be most yourself if you were a different gender?

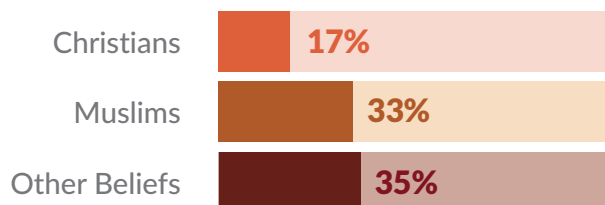


One in five teens report that they would feel most themselves if they were a different gender. Once again, this sentiment is much less common among Christians than among teens from other religions. Similarly, only 1 in 10 Committed Christians (10%) answered yes, compared with more than 1 in 5 Nominal Christians (23%).

This sentiment is only slightly more common amongst girls than boys. There is no difference based on how much time teens spend online.

GENDER STRUGGLES BY RELIGION

I would feel most myself as another gender.



GENDER STRUGGLES BY MALE AND FEMALE

I would feel most myself as another gender.



CHRISTIAN TEENS RESPOND

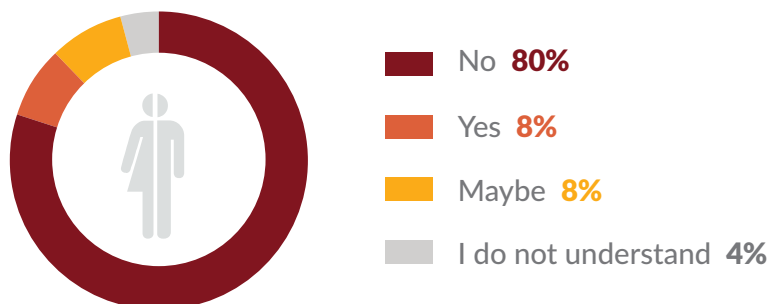
I would feel most myself as another gender.



NOMINAL CHRISTIANS
COMMITTED CHRISTIANS

VIEW OF GENDER CHANGE

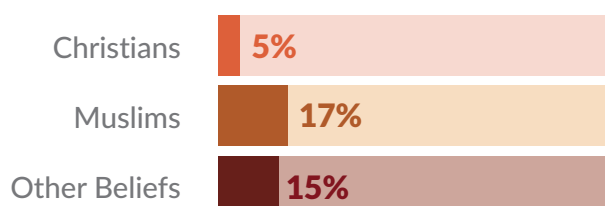
Is it okay for someone to change their body to become a different gender?



Very few young people believe it is okay for someone to change their body to become a different gender. Once again, Christians are less likely to view it as acceptable to change one's gender, compared with non-Christians. Similarly, only 3% of Committed Christians hold this view, versus 8% of Nominal Christians. Responses do not vary based on how much time a teen spends online each day.

VIEWS OF GENDER CHANGE BY RELIGION

Yes, it is okay for someone to change their body to become a different gender.



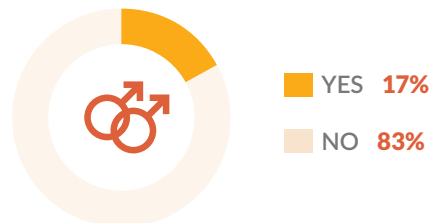
Same-Sex Attraction

This generation globally is exploring their sexuality and attractions. We saw this with the young people surveyed in the DRC as well. A little less than 1 in 5 young people (17%) say they have recently experienced same-sex attraction. This is similar to the global average of 20.¹⁷

Males are just as likely as females to report same-sex attraction. While Nominal Christians report experiencing same-sex attraction slightly more than Committed Christians, these teens with a strong commitment to their faith do not seem to be exempt from experiencing this struggle. Fewer Christian teens overall report same-sex attraction (13%) compared with non-Christian teens (29%).

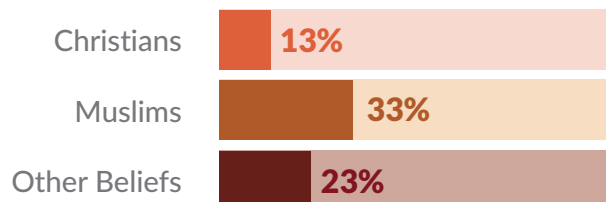
SAME-SEX ATTRACTION

Within the past three months, I have felt sexually attracted to someone of the same gender:



SAME-SEX ATTRACTION BY RELIGION

Within the past three months, I have felt sexually attracted to someone of the same gender:



INFLUENCES ON THE CONVERSATION

When it comes to gender and sexuality, teens primarily turn to family for guidance, followed by friends and peers. Religious leaders carry notably less influence on the topics of gender and sexuality than on others (such as the meaning of life and right and wrong), though their influence becomes greater as teens get older.

In general, teens favour in-person relationships over online sources, though 11% do use social media. Rural teens are more likely than their semi-urban and urban peers to seek guidance online.

For a deeper exploration of how faith background and location shape these patterns, see Influences and Guiding Voices, page 17.

17. OneHope, "Reports and Resources: Global Report", 37.

Marriage Viewpoints

We also investigated teens' beliefs about marriage. When asked if they believe marriage should be a lifelong commitment, teens in the DRC responded with a strong yes (83%)—significantly higher than teens globally (57%).¹⁸ Based on past research, this is consistent with other African countries that have been part of this study. African countries were among the top four globally to hold this viewpoint.

A similar proportion of teens (81%) say that marriage should be exclusively between a man and a woman. Nominal Christians are three times as likely to say no as Committed Christians.

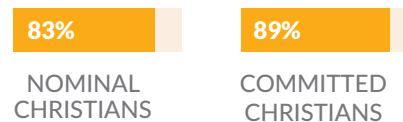
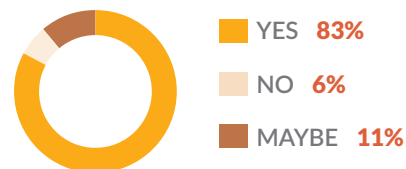
We also asked teens to share their viewpoint on whether having sex before marriage is acceptable. Responses were more traditional, with 70% saying no—once again, much higher than the global average of 28%.¹⁹

However, this generation of teens in the DRC still displays a degree of uncertainty on the topic. Nearly a third say premarital sex is okay or that they are unsure. Committed Christians also express uncertainty around this topic.

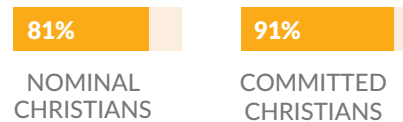
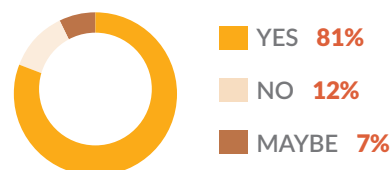
Teens' views are similar across different age groups and both genders.

Overall, Committed Christians are more Scriptural in their viewpoints about sex and marriage than Nominal Christians. While these Christian teens may have traditional viewpoints about marriage being exclusively between a man and a woman and being a lifelong commitment, there is a drop-off in those who believe that sex should be saved for marriage.

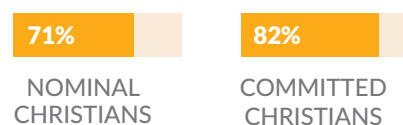
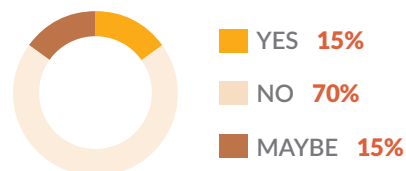
Should marriage be a lifelong commitment?



Should marriage be exclusively between a man and a woman?



Do you believe it is okay to have sex before marriage?



18. OneHope, "Reports and Resources: Global Report", 38.
19. OneHope, "Reports and Resources: Global Report", 22.

Conclusion

Young people's opinions may change as they mature, but for now, we have a clear picture of what they believe on the important topics of gender identity and sexuality. In addition, we know where they are turning to for guidance and advice on these matters.

- **STRENGTHEN SCRIPTURAL VIEWPOINTS**

It is reassuring to see that teens in the DRC mostly have scriptural viewpoints on topics such as gender, sexuality and marriage. But these topics continue to need cultivating as young people mature and begin to hear other opinions and voices.

How can we help teens understand the plan God has for their sexuality and relationships, and embrace that design in order to flourish?

- **EQUIP PARENTS FOR IMPORTANT CONVERSATIONS**

The voice of culture speaks loudly to youth through music, media and digital platforms. At the same time, it is encouraging that teens turn to family most often for guidance on sensitive topics like gender and sexuality. Parents still play a critical role in helping young people navigate the influences of culture and peers with wisdom and clarity. We need to be ready not only to speak God's truth but to be good listeners to young people who may feel confused or doubtful about these topics.

How can we equip parents for honest and biblically grounded conversations on topics like gender identity, same-sex attraction and sex outside of marriage?

- **STRENGTHEN RELATIONAL DISCIPLESHIP THROUGH FAMILIES**

Family is the most trusted source of guidance for young people on questions of gender and sexuality. This highlights the importance of equipping families—not just churches—as the primary context for discipleship in these areas.

How can we support and resource families to intentionally disciple their children in conversations about identity, relationships and God's design?

- **EQUIP FRIENDS AS INFLUENCERS**

While family is the primary source of guidance for teens when it comes to gender and sexuality, friends and peers are the second most common influence. For some situations or topics, teens may feel more comfortable turning to friends than to adults.

How can we equip young people to be wise, compassionate and biblically grounded voices within their friendships? How can we disciple teens who can, in turn, influence their peers toward truth and healthy relationships?

DIGITAL CONNECTEDNESS AND IMPACT

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF THE CONGO REPORT

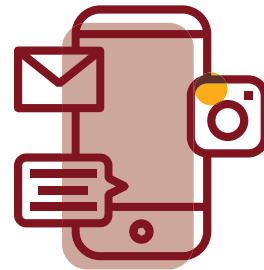
What We Discovered



Roughly half of teens have a **smartphone**—even in rural areas—and more than 1 in 4 **younger teens** (ages 13-15) have one.



Teens spend a substantial amount of time online—nearly **5 hours per day** on average—primarily on social media and talking/chatting.



Young people acknowledge that **social media** both **helps** and **hurts** them emotionally.



Most teens are digitally connected, with only **15% lacking internet** access.

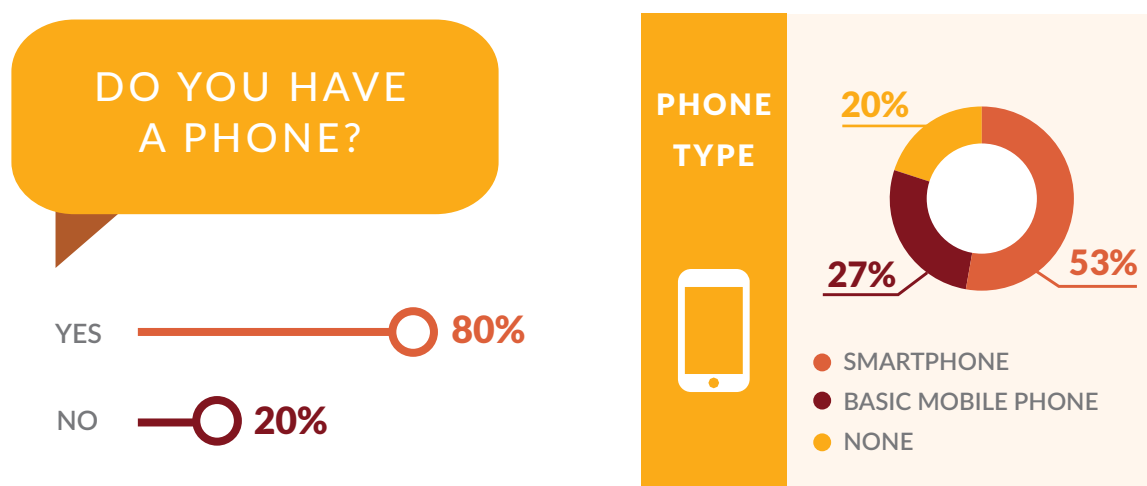
Older teens use social media more and are more likely to say it has **negative effects**, such as sadness or anxiety.



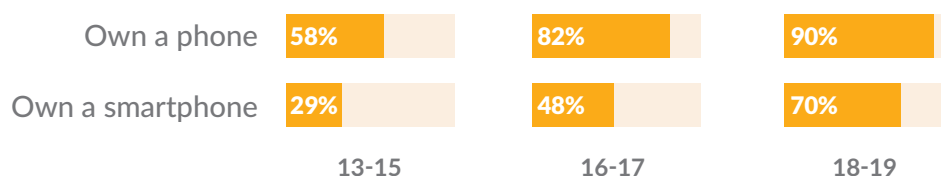
Teens and Technology

This generation is being shaped by the internet. As smartphones become more common around the world, young people have access to information, opinions and influences at their fingertips. But how much is this affecting teens in the DRC?

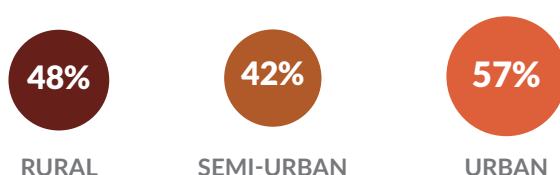
We wanted to find out how many young people have phones, how much time they are spending online and how they are using social media. Most teens surveyed (80%) have a phone, and more than half (57%) have a smartphone. Even among younger teens, more than half of them own a phone, and more than 1 in 4 have a smartphone. Even in rural areas, smartphones have become more common among teens than basic phones.



PHONE OWNERSHIP BY AGE



SMARTPHONE OWNERSHIP BY LOCATION

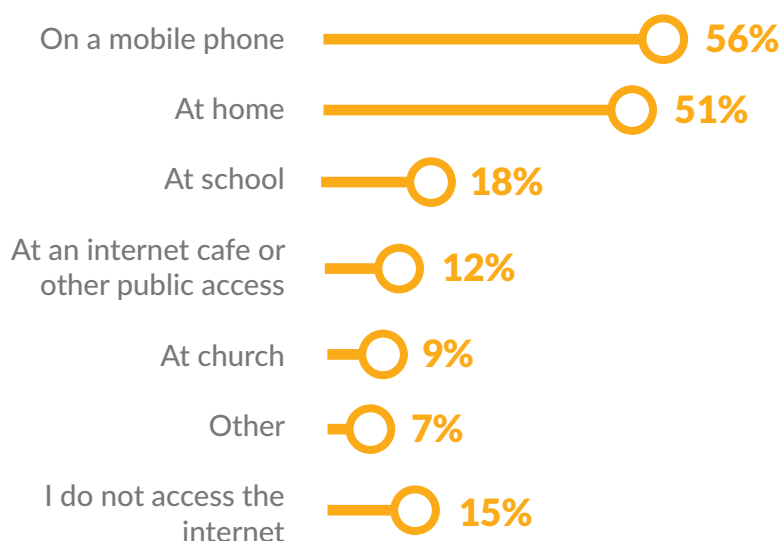


Teens and the Internet

More than half of teens access the internet on their phones or at home. Fewer teens go to school, an internet cafe or church to go online. Older teens are more likely than younger teens to go online at each of these locations. Urban teens are more likely to access the internet on a phone, while rural teens are more likely to go online at home, at school or at church. Fifteen percent say they do not access the internet at all. Younger teens (27%) are more likely to say this.

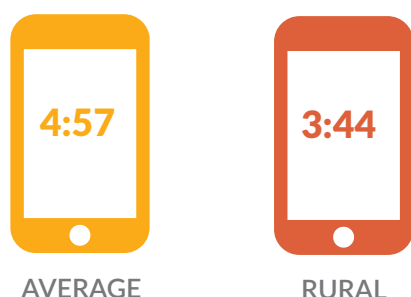
INTERNET ACCESS

Where do you access the internet? (Select all that apply.)²⁰



TIME ONLINE DAILY

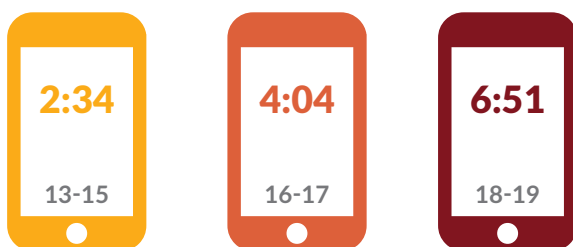
During a typical day, how many hours do you spend online? (Include ALL activity.)



20. Since teens could select more than one answer to this question, totals do not add up to 100%.

DAILY TIME ONLINE BY AGE

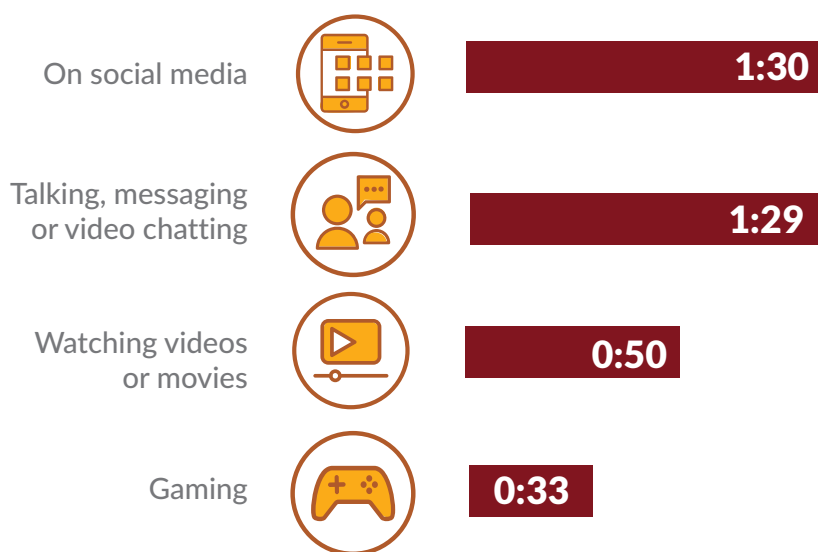
During a typical day, how many hours do you spend online?



We were curious about how much time young people are spending online and what they are doing there. Teens surveyed in the DRC report spending an average of 5 hours online each day. Younger teens—and rural teens—tend to spend much less time online. Boys and girls spend about the same amount of time online.

ONLINE ACTIVITIES

During a typical day, how much time do you spend:²¹



What do teens like to do online? Most of their time is spent on social media or talking, messaging or video chatting—90 minutes on each activity, on average. Older teens spend much more time on social media and talking or chatting than younger teens, which appears to correspond with smartphone ownership rates. An average teen also spends close to 1 hour a day watching videos and half an hour gaming.

21. Numbers represent the average for all teens surveyed.

Teens and Social Media

When it comes to social media, young people have mixed impressions about its effects on their lives. Over half of teens say social media makes them feel more satisfied. However, over half of teens (58%) also say that it sometimes or often makes them feel sad, anxious or depressed. Older teens—and rural teens—are more likely to experience these negative emotions due to social media. Boys and girls express similar reactions about the effects of social media on their lives.

SOCIAL MEDIA SATISFACTION

Social media helps me feel satisfied with my life.



AGREE **55%**
DISAGREE **45%**

SOCIAL MEDIA DISSATISFACTION

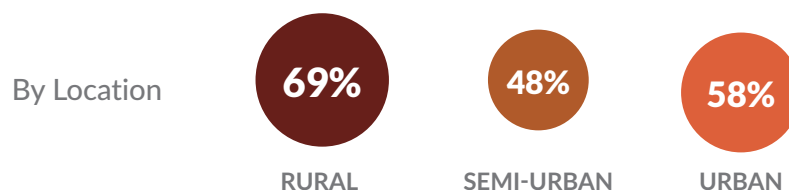
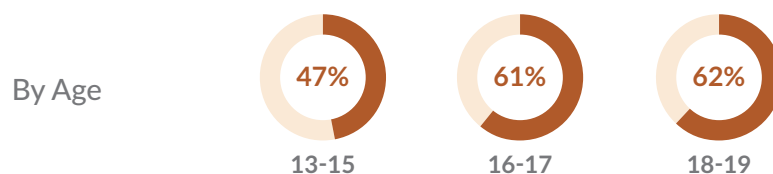
Social media makes me feel sad, anxious or depressed.



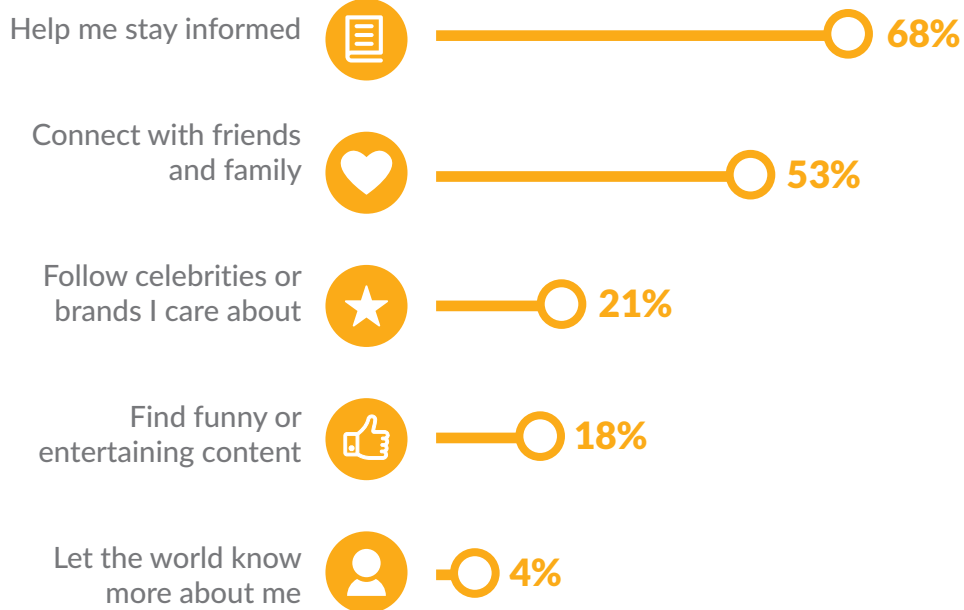
Often **13%** Sometimes **45%** Rarely or Never **42%**

SOCIAL MEDIA EFFECTS

*Social media **sometimes or often** makes me feel sad, anxious or depressed.*



I USE SOCIAL MEDIA PRIMARILY TO²²



Most teens say they use social media to help them stay informed or connect with friends and family. These two practical uses are also more common among older teens than younger ones.



22. Teens could select up to two answers to this question, so totals add up to more than 100%.

Conclusion

Constant connectedness to digital platforms is becoming a way of life for young people around the world. More and more teens in the DRC are owning phones—and smartphones—and getting internet connected. How will we help them navigate this new reality and engage them effectively with the gospel message on these digital platforms?

- **LEVERAGE DIGITAL OPPORTUNITIES**

Technology can be a powerful tool to reach this generation. Many young people, especially older teens, are spending significant time online and engaging through social media and messaging platforms.

How can we ensure there is gospel content for them to find and life-giving online communities they can be a part of?

- **NAVIGATE THE TENSION**

While this generation appears to be embracing going digital, some young people recognise the tensions that devices are bringing to their lives. Many teens are feeling negative emotional effects and may need help sorting through the confusion that social media, in particular, can bring.

How can we be mindful of the changes digital access brings and help young people navigate online engagement in a healthy way?

- **POSITION FOR THE FUTURE**

Digital connectedness is the future we are all headed towards, and youth are leading the way. We cannot stop that, but we can take the journey with them rather than losing them to a digital world we are not part of and do not understand. As families, church leaders and ministry workers, we need to be aware of how the world is changing and how we may need to change with it.

How can we embrace digital alongside this generation and bring both wisdom and innovation to this space?

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

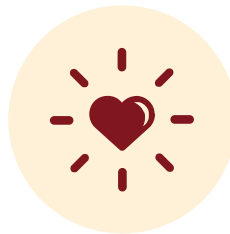
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF THE CONGO REPORT

What We Discovered



Young people overall have an **extremely positive** outlook on their future **career opportunities**.

Teens in the DRC care most that their **future career** makes their **parents proud** and **helps other people**. They are also concerned about earning capacity.



Entrepreneurship is a major aspiration, with the vast majority of teens expressing a desire to **start their own business** or own a company in the future.



Education is seen as critical to success, though **financial barriers** remain a significant challenge for many young people.



Looking to the Future

Across the DRC, teenagers are navigating the transition to adulthood with a mix of responsibility, ambition and hope. This section explores key themes related to young people's everyday realities and future aspirations—how many are already contributing financially to their households, the extent to which work is part of their lives and the value they place on education as a pathway toward a better future.

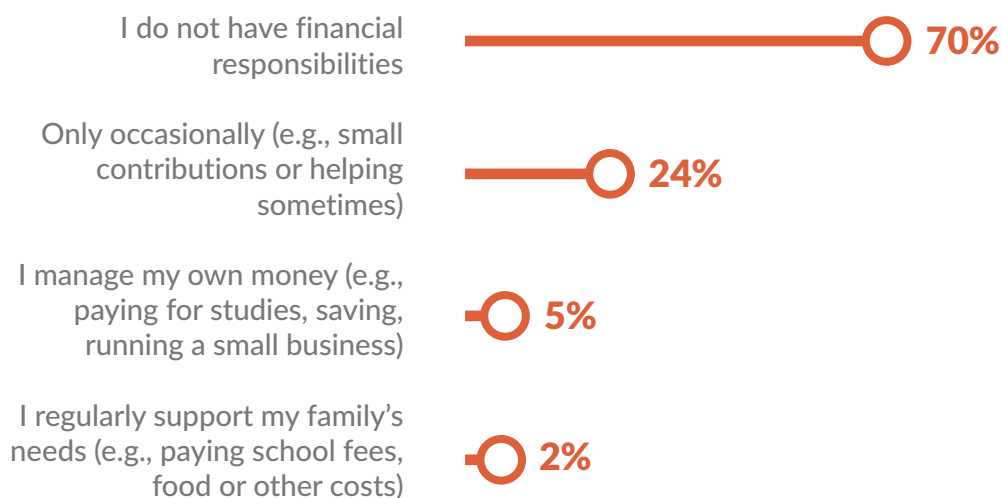
It also highlights the optimism teens hold about career opportunities ahead, the priorities that shape their career dreams and the strong entrepreneurial spirit emerging among Congolese youth. Together, these findings paint a picture of a generation that, despite challenges, remains deeply motivated to learn, provide and build a brighter future for themselves, their families and their communities.

Financial and Job Responsibilities

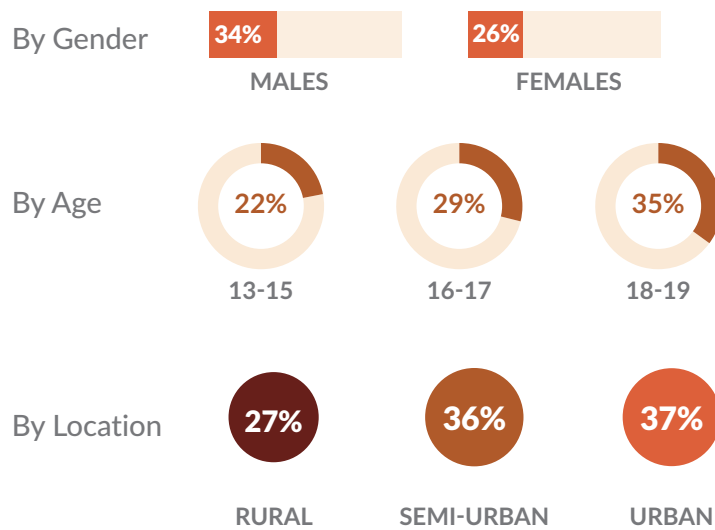
While most teens are still largely free of money worries, 3 in 10 teens do have financial responsibilities such as helping their families, paying for school or managing a small business.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Do you have financial responsibilities (for example, helping your family, paying for your studies, managing a small business)?



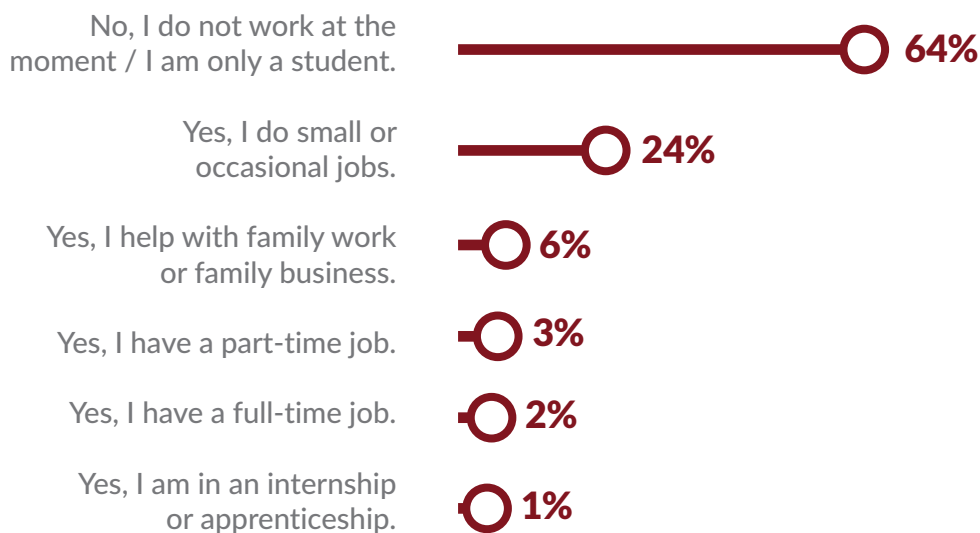
TEENS WITH FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES



Not surprisingly, older teens tend to carry more financial burdens, as do boys. Urban teens are less likely than those in semi-urban or rural areas to have financial responsibilities (27% and 36-37%, respectively).

JOB RESPONSIBILITIES

Do you have a job or work somewhere?



Nearly 2 in 3 teens (64%) report they are not working and/or are full-time students. Another 1 in 4 teens (24%) work small or occasional jobs. Around 1 in 10 teens (11%) work with family or in a part-time or full-time job.

1 IN 4 TEENS
WORK SMALL OR
OCCASIONAL JOBS.

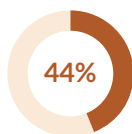
Education

Four in five teens (82%) agree that education is the primary factor that will guarantee them a better future. Girls and boys are equally likely to value education.

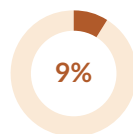
Nearly half of teens plan to go to university. Among teens who said something might prevent them from attending university, the cost was the barrier most frequently mentioned.

EDUCATION BARRIERS

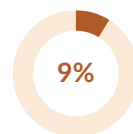
What would stop you from going to university? (Choose up to two answers.)



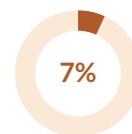
Costs too much



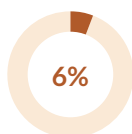
Not enough time



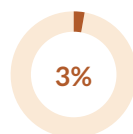
I would not meet college requirements



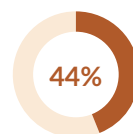
I would not know what to study



I have another plan that does not require going to university



I cannot get to a university in person or participate online



None of these, I am going to university

Career

Almost all young people surveyed (96%) believe they have a career opportunity ahead of them.

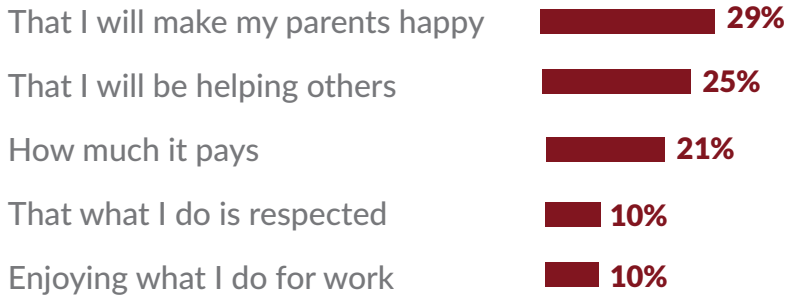
I believe that I will have a future career opportunity



YES 96%
NO 4%

TOP CAREER PRIORITIES

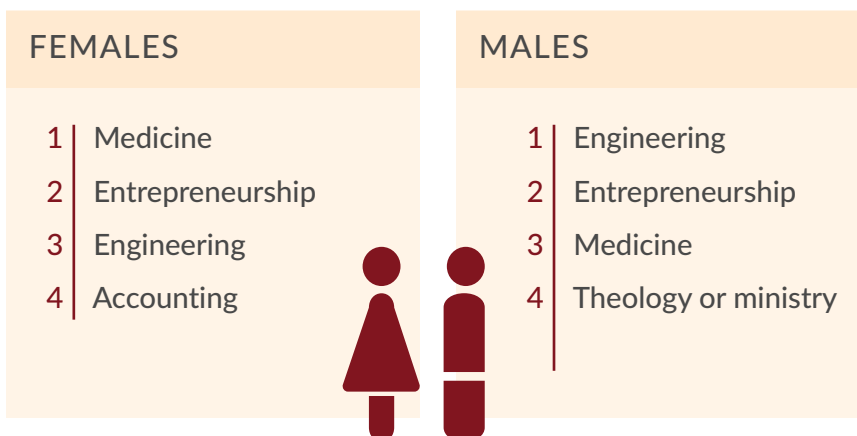
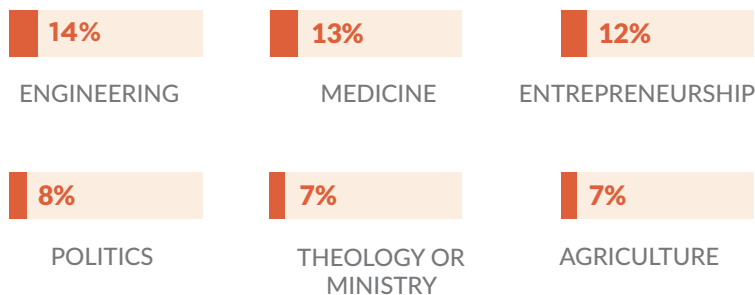
The most important thing in my future career is:



Although they may not yet know what that career will be, teens do have an idea of what they want from their future career. In the DRC, 3 in 10 teens surveyed say that their top career priority is making their parents happy. Helping others is also a popular answer, with slightly fewer teens saying that how much a job pays would be their primary concern.

TOP CAREER CHOICES

What career are you most interested in pursuing for yourself in future?²³



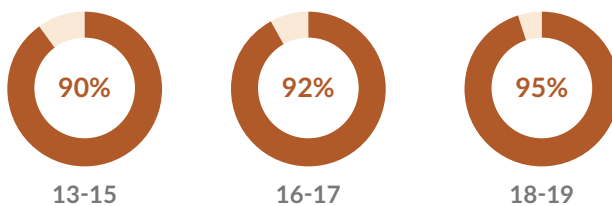
23. Out of 15 possible choices, the top six are listed. Teens could select up to two answers.

Teens in Africa are the most ambitious among their generation globally, with a strong desire to become entrepreneurs. This was seen in past GYC research in other African countries²⁴ and is also true for teens in the DRC. Nearly all teens say they would like to start a business or own their own company in the future.

93% OF TEENS IN THE DRC HAVE ENTREPRENEURIAL GOALS.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

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



Both younger and older teens express this strongly entrepreneurial attitude. Boys are only slightly more entrepreneurial than girls, with 9 in 10 girls (91%) saying they would like to start a business or own a company in the future.



24. OneHope, "Reports and Resources: Regional Reports and Resources: Africa."

Conclusion

Young people in the DRC are looking toward the future with strong optimism and ambition. Nearly all teens believe they will have career opportunities, and many are motivated not only by personal success but by a desire to support their families and contribute to others. At the same time, financial barriers and early responsibilities present real challenges. These findings highlight both the hope and the complexity shaping how young people prepare for adulthood.

- **BUILD ON STRONG ASPIRATIONS**

Technology can be a powerful tool to reach this generation. Many young people, especially older teens, are spending significant time online and engaging through social media and messaging platforms.

How can we ensure there is gospel content for them to find and life-giving online communities they can be a part of?

- **SUPPORT ENTREPRENEURIAL AMBITION**

A large majority of teens express a desire to start their own business, reflecting a strong entrepreneurial mindset across this generation.

How can we equip young people with the skills, character and support they need to pursue entrepreneurship in ways that are sustainable and impactful?

- **DISCIPLE A GENERATION WITH PURPOSE**

Many teens express a desire to help others and contribute positively to their communities. This presents a meaningful opportunity to connect their aspirations with a deeper sense of calling and purpose.

How can we help young people see their future not just as a career path but as part of God's greater purpose for their lives?

About OneHope

In partnership with local churches, ministries and governments around the world, OneHope has reached over 2 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 children experience God's Story, sharing the life-changing message of hope with children and youth in every country. [onehope.net](https://www.onehope.net)

About the Research

This project was an extension of a global research initiative that surveyed young people ages 13-19 in more than 20 countries. The global study was conducted in February-March of 2020. Survey data for this project was collected between October and November 2025.

The data represents a variety of locations and regions throughout the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and questions were customised to fit the national context. Young people were surveyed in person at schools and submitted their answers on paper as well as digitally through churches. Due to this difference in implementation, not all young people were required to answer every question. However, sample sizes were sufficient for every question included in this report.

CHRISTIANS

Young people who self-identified as Christian, but not as Jehovah's Witnesses or members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

COMMITTED CHRISTIANS

Young people who self-identified as Christian, but not as Jehovah's Witnesses or members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and who met the following criteria:

- Believe God exists, and they can have a personal relationship with Him
- Believe Jesus is the Son of God
- Believe that forgiveness of sins is only possible through faith in Jesus Christ
- Believe the Bible is the Word of God
- Read Scripture on their own daily or weekly
- Pray daily or weekly

NOMINAL CHRISTIANS

Young people who self-identified as Christian, but not as Jehovah's Witnesses or members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and who did not meet the criteria of core beliefs or habits established for Committed Christians.

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GLOBAL YOUTH CULTURE