



Facts+FigS



The world is full of facts, figures and statistics. When it comes to young people, we often only hear about the bad things.

This collection of facts and figures brings a bit of balance and offers some good news facts as well as some sobering ones.

Why not use them to focus your prayers; both in celebration of all that young people are, but also in petitions to God to change the not so good things that affect young people.

Mobile phones

An integral part of children's and young people's daily lives: According to Eurobarometer (2007), an average of 79% of 12-18 year olds across the EU owns a mobile phone. 50 million texts are sent daily.

Source: <http://en.teachtoday.eu/technology/facts-and-figures/facts-and-figures/>

War Child

Thousands of children are fighting in wars and armed conflicts around the world. This includes both girls and boys in Latin America, Africa and Asia and also in Europe. The largest numbers of child soldiers, however, are in Africa. According to UN estimates there are over 100,000, particularly in Uganda, Liberia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Sudan.

Source: <http://en.kindernothilfe.org/en/Rubrik/Topics/Child+Soldiers-p-195/Facts+and+figures-p-105.html>

Pocket money

There are over 9 million children aged between five and sixteen years old in Britain. The total spending power of children in this age group is over sixty million pounds per year!

Average amount of pocket money = £3.19 a week

Girls total amount spent = £13.20 a week

Boys total amount spent = £11.20 a week

Two thirds of pocket money is spent on sweets and chocolate. Girls also buy: clothes, shoes, magazines and make up (cosmetics/toiletries). Boys buy : more food and drink, computer games, videos and Cds. Recently teenagers are spending more on mobile phone cards than on sweets. Girls spend 50% more on mobile phones than boys.

Source: <http://www.britishcouncil.org/LANGUAGEASSISTANT-POCKET-MONEY.HTM>

High School Musical

Initially a modest-budget TV film featuring the loves and lives of a singing dancing band of teenagers, the debut 2006 musical comedy drew 7.7 million viewers, making it Disney Channel's top show ever. The soundtrack became an instant hit with 4.1 million albums sold in the United States alone. Since last year's release of "High School Musical 2", the musical has been dubbed into 24 languages and viewed by 250 million people. "High School Musical 3: Senior Year" is due for release in 35 countries. Disney says music downloads off the web and other spin-off products are expected to generate \$2.7 billion over 2007/2008

Source: <http://sg.news.yahoo.com/afp/20081017/ten-entertainment-film-music-1dc2b55.html>

Victims of crime

Young people are actually more likely to be victims of crime than adults. 35% of young people aged 10 - 15 have experienced at least one personal crime in the last 12 months. Being a victim at age 12 is a powerful indicator of offending at age 15. Too many young people take matters into their own hands, due to being invisible and feeling unprotected; they consider carrying weapons as a security measure. 48% of young people in one London borough said they feel it is acceptable to carry a weapon to defend themselves. 25% said 'I don't feel it's acceptable but I feel I must.'

Source: <http://www.young-voice.org/crime/info.asp#facts>

Democracy

600,000 young people take part in the UK Youth Parliament elections each year.

Over 600 young people are elected as Members of the UK Youth Parliament. They work to ensure that the voices of young people are heard at a national, regional and local level.

Source: <http://www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk/>

Trafficking

Trafficking is where children are taken against their will, bought, sold and transported into slavery for sexual exploitation, sweat shops, child brides, forced begging, sale of human organs, farm labour, domestic servitude. An estimated 1.2 million children are trafficked each year.

Source: www.stopthetraffik.org