



Research 1



Lots of people, including Frontier Youth Trust, have undertaken research on matters that relate to young people.

We include some snapshots of these research findings to help focus prayers, highlight needs, inform talks and provide encouragement to respond to what the research says.

Bottom of the league

According to a study from the United Nations, Children and young people growing up in the UK suffer greater deprivation, worse relationships with their parents and are exposed to more risks than those in any other wealthy country in the developed world. The Unicef report puts the UK bottom of the league of 21 countries on the wellbeing of children and adolescents. The United States comes second to last.

Al Aynsley Green, the children's commissioner for England, acknowledges that the UN has accurately highlighted the troubled lives of children. "There is a crisis at the heart of our society and we must not continue to ignore the impact of our attitudes towards children and young people and the effect that this has on their well-being, I hope this report will prompt us all to look beyond the statistics and to the underlying causes of our failure to nurture happy and healthy children in the UK. It is time to stop demonising children and young people for what goes wrong and start supporting them to make positive choices. To bring an end to the confusing messages we give to young people about their role, responsibility and position in society and ensure that every child feels valued and has their rights respected."

Source: Child poverty in perspective: An overview of child well-being in rich countries. UNICEF, 2007.

Top of the class

2008 teenagers recorded the biggest rise in top grade GCSE passes for almost two decades. Figures showed the percentage of pupils awarded pass grades at A* to C rose by 2.4 per cent to 65.7 per cent – the largest increase since the first year of the exam in 1989. The percentage of pupils achieving A* and A grade passes also rose by 1.2 per cent to 20.7 per cent.

A Level exam results also saw an improvement. Figures from the Joint Council for Qualifications show 97.2% of entries in England, Wales and Northern Ireland passed, up from 96.9%. A grades went to 25.9% of the entries, up from 25.3% - and in Northern Ireland more than a third achieved an A.

Source: Joint Council for Qualifications . 2008.

The Future

Research amongst Christian youth workers reports that Church practices relating to work with young people need to move beyond where they currently are. Church for young people needs to move to be an authentic counter cultural community of faith that connects with the real life experiences of young people. Work amongst marginalized young people was found to need a radical re-think.

Source: The Future of Christian Youth Work. Frontier Youth Trust and Worth Unlimited. 2008.

Wanna be in my gang

Groups of teenagers 'hanging out' on the streets may look intimidating, but young people often gang together with friends as a way of keeping safe and avoiding trouble. Many young people have a strong connection with the territory they live in. Young people often have positive motivations for becoming involved in territorial behaviour, such as developing their identity and friendships. But territorial identities are frequently expressed in violent conflict with territorial groups from other areas.

Source: Streetwise teens gang together to avoid trouble and stay safe. Joseph Rowntree Foundation. 2006. Young people and territoriality in British cities. Joseph Rowntree Foundation. 2008.