Factsheet: China

Last update: 21 April 2014

DEFINITION OF YOUTH

As described in “Revisiting China’s Youth Policy” (2011), the Communist Youth League (CYL), the sole national organisation managing youth affairs in China, focuses its efforts on young people between 14 and 28 years.

CANDIDACY AGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lower House</th>
<th>18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union

Entirely indirectly elected.

Upper House

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Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union

Unicameral.

MARRIAGEABLE AGE

Opposite Sex

Without Parental Consent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Male</th>
<th>22</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Criminal Law of China (1979)

Minimum legal ages at marriage may vary across states/provinces, ethnic groups, religious groups or forms of marriage. No specific legislation for same-sex marriage.

With Parental Consent

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Male</th>
<th>--</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>--</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

LITERACY RATES

99.74% Male (15-24)
99.71% Female (15-24)

Both sexes (15-24)%

Source: Commonwealth Youth Programme

Year: 2015

NET ENROLMENT RATE

Secondary School

Both sexes %

Source: UNESCO

Year: 2015

SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

PREVALENCE OF HIV

Male (15-24) %

5.50%

Consumed any smokeless or smoking tobacco product at least once 30 days prior to the survey.

Female (15-24) %

7.10% Male (13-15)%
4.10% Female (13-15)%

Year: 2010

Source: WHO

POLICY & LEGISLATION

While no unified national youth policy exists, “Revisiting China’s Youth Policy” (2011) finds that there are more than 200 policies and regulations that address the welfare of young people. These focus on six general areas, which the article suggests could inform a future national youth policy:

- Promotion of communist ideology and “socialism with Chinese characteristics”
- Role of the Communist Youth League (CYL) in assisting the government with managing youth affairs
- The growing importance of Self-Organised Youth Organisations (SYOs)
- Protection of youth rights and welfare through the development of laws and legal policies
- Youth unemployment in the wake of market-oriented economic reforms
- Youth development in the areas such as education, physical and mental health, and community participation

Is there a national youth policy?

NO

China does not have a national youth policy. A 2011 article describes the current situation.

Source: World Bank

Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source.

BUDGET & SPENDING

GDP PER CAPITA | HDI | GINI

USD 6,807.43 | 0.699 | 37.01

Year: 2013

UNDP

Source: World Bank

Year: 2011

Source: World Bank

CORRUPTION PERCEPTION

PRESS FREEDOM

72.91

175 out of 180 countries.

Year: 2013

Source: Reporters Without Borders

60 out of 177 countries.

Year: 2014

Source: Transparency International

2012 Revision - Estimates. For statistical purposes, the data for China do not include Hong Kong and Macao, Special Administrative Regions (SAR) of China, and Taiwan Province of China. (Accessed August 2013).

POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX 2010

BUDGET & SPENDING

Source: United Nations - Department of Economic and Social Affairs - Population Division

2012 Revision - Estimates.

Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source.

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

Share of labour force aged 15-24 available and seeking employment

Source: World Bank

Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed August 2013).

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PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

According to the China Internet Information Center, a government-authorized web portal, the Communist Youth League of China (CYL) was established in May 1922 “to adhere to the implementation of the CPC’s basic lines and policies of the primary stage of socialism”. It is described as a “quasi-official youth work organisation under the CPC and supported by the government to lead and coordinate youth affairs” by “Revisiting China’s Youth Policy” (2011), however may lack “legitimate authority to propose or monitor youth related policies” in the interest of youth.

YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION

All-China Youth Federation (ACYF), established in 1949, describes itself as a “federative body of Chinese youth organisations and excellent youth nationwide.” It has 52 member organisations, including the Communist Youth League of China (CYL), covering 89 million members. Its activities include education, voluntary service and development of the “new countryside”. ACYF “aims to represent the legitimate rights and interest of young people” however it is unclear how it does this or to what extent it is able to advocate youth interests among decision-makers.

BUDGET & SPENDING

According to a 2009 audit, the budget expenditure of the Communist Youth League of China (CYL) Central Committee was CNY 362 million (USD 59.6 million). It is unclear if this amount includes all youth-related programming. While reports on budgets are published on the Chinese government website, the 2009 audit is the most recent information published on the budget of the CYL. The World Bank lists no data on public spending on education in China for the last ten years.

What is the budget allocated to the governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth and/or youth programming?

CNY 362 MILLION
USD 59.6 MILLION

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TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION AS A PERCENTAGE OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND GDP

No Data

Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. Unless otherwise noted, data for China do not include data for Hong Kong SAR, China; Macao SAR, China; or Taiwan, China. (Accessed August 2013).

PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS

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