Factsheet: Singapore

Last update: 24 October 2014

DEFINITION OF YOUTH

There are competing definitions of youth in Singapore. The Children and Young Persons Act (1993) defines a young person as 14-16 years while the National Youth Council defines youth as 15-35 years.

CANDIDACY AGE

Lower House

Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union
Partially appointed.

Upper House

Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union
Unicameral.

MARRIAGEABLE AGE

Without Parental Consent

Opposite Sex

Same Sex

Male

21

18

XX

Female

21

--

XX

Muslims may marry at 18 with parental consent. In special circumstances, a Kadi may allow Muslim women to marry at puberty. Homosexual acts regulated. Source: U.S. Administration of Muslim Law Act (2009), Singapore Registry of Marriages

SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

POLICY & LEGISLATION

While there is a Children and Young Persons Act (1993), there is no youth policy or law dedicated to the wider youth demographic or youth issues. The Children and Young Persons Act provides for the welfare, care, protection and rehabilitation of children and young persons who are in need of such care, protection or rehabilitation, to regulate homes for children and young persons and to consolidate the law relating to children and young persons.

Issues addressed by the Act include protection of children and young persons; juvenile court; homes for children; and

There is no national youth policy.

Sources:
World Bank
UNDP

Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source.

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

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

BUDGET & SPENDING

USD 55182.48

Year: 2013

Source: World Bank

HDI

0.895

Year: 2013

Source: UNDP

Gini

9 out of 187 countries.

Source: World Bank

HDI

0.895

Year: 2013

Source: UNDP

Gini

9 out of 187 countries.

Source: World Bank

CORRUPTION PERCEPTION

84

7 out of 177 countries.

Source: Transparency International

PRESS FREEDOM

44.29

150 out of 180 countries.

Source: Reporters Without Borders

SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

PREVALENCE OF HIV

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Male (15-24) %

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Female (15-24) %

Year: No data.

Source: World Bank

TOBACCO USE

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

9.10%

Both sexes (15-24) %

10.50%

Male (15-24) %

7.50%

Female (15-24) %

Year: 2010

Source: WHO

SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

LITERACY RATES

99.85%

Both sexes (15-24) %

99.85%

Male (15-24) %

99.85%

Female (15-24) %

Year: 2013

Source: Commonwealth Youth Programme

NET ENROLMENT RATE

Secondary School

--

Both sexes %

--

Both sexes %

Year: No data.

Source: UNESCO

LITERACY RATES

99.85%

Both sexes (15-24) %

99.85%

Male (15-24) %

99.85%

Female (15-24) %

Year: 2013

Source: Commonwealth Youth Programme

NET ENROLMENT RATE

Secondary School

--

Both sexes %

--

Both sexes %

Year: No data.

Source: UNESCO

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

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

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


BUDGET & SPENDING

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

The Ministry for Culture, Community and Youth (MCCY) has responsibility for youth affairs. The MCCY aims to support youth to “fulfil their aspirations and interests,” to encourage youth engagement in the community, and to foster youth leadership. The MCCY has several key programmes, including grants and funding to support youth initiatives and the youth sector, and Community and Youth Leadership Schools run in partnership with the Ministry of Education. The MCCY is also launching the first intake of a new National Youth Corps programme in June 2014.

**YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION**

The National Youth Council Singapore (NYC) was created by the Singaporean government in 1989 as the “co-ordinating body for youth affairs in Singapore”. Chaired by the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, the NYC has a vision of “inspired and committed youth”. The NYC runs several programmes, including an annual youth award and a resource hub. The level of direct involvement of youth and youth-orientated organisations in the NYC is unclear.

**BUDGET & SPENDING**

The Singapore Budget 2014 for the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth allocates SGD 10.8 million (USD 8.6 million) to the National Youth Programme. There is no further breakdown of expenditure on youth policy, affairs or programmes. According to the World Bank, Singapore spent 18.11% of its government expenditure and 3.05% of its GDP on education provision in 2013.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>% of GDP</th>
<th>% of GOV. EXPENDITURE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>11.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>12.0</td>
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<td>12.5</td>
<td>14.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>15.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>15.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>14.0</td>
<td>16.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: World Bank

Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed May 2014).

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**PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS**

Visit our library for further reading:

- Documents about Singapore