Factsheet: United States

Last update: 24 October 2014

DEFINITION OF YOUTH

The draft youth policy framework Pathways for Youth from 2013 defines youth as those under 25 years old in three stages: early adolescence (under 14), middle adolescence (15-17), late adolescence and early adulthood (18-24).

CANDIDACY AGE

| Lower House | 25 |
| Upper House | 30 |

Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union

MARRIAGEABLE AGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opposite Sex</th>
<th>Same Sex</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Marriage without and with parental consent varies by state (18 and 16 in most states). Same-sex marriage/civil union legislation varies by state. Recognised in 17 states as of February 2014. Source: UNSD, ILGA

VOTING AGE

18

Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union

MAJORITY AGE

18

Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union

CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

7

Minimum Age

The age of criminal responsibility is established by state law. 13 states have set minimum ages, ranging from 7 to 12 years old. Source: Criminal Justice Center (2002), Child Rights International Network (2011)

SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX

0.8

7 out of 170 countries.

Year: 2013

Source: Commonwealth Youth Programme

LITERACY RATES

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

86.91%

Year: 2012

Source: UNESCO

NET ENROLMENT RATE

Secondary School

86.01% Male %
87.85% Female %

Year: 2010

Source: UNESCO

SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

PREVALENCE OF HIV

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

13.20%

Year: 2010

Source: World Bank

TOBACCO USE

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

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

15.40% Male (15-24) %
11.10% Female (15-24) %

Year: 2004

Source: World Bank

POLICY & LEGISLATION

Pathways for Youth is a draft strategic plan for federal collaboration on youth issues. It was published in 2013 by the Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs, which brings together 18 federal departments and agencies focusing on youth, and is currently in public consultation. The draft strategy formulates a strengths-based vision for youth and defines three goals: (1) Promote coordinated strategies to improve youth outcomes; (2) Promote evidence-based and innovative strategies; (3) Promote youth engagement and partnerships. It further introduces four cross-cutting initiatives:

- Develop a shared language on youth topics;
- Assess and disseminate models of collaboration;
-...

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

At the federal level, there are two offices dealing primarily with youth: the Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs brings together 18 federal departments and agencies in an effort to collaborate and harmonise youth programs. The Office of Global Youth Issues is attached to the Department of State and works globally with agencies and embassies through more than 70 youth councils.

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

UNCLEAR

YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION

While many cities and states have youth councils, some government-initiated, others youth-led, there is no active national youth council at federal level. A previously active organisation, the United States Youth Council, was disbanded in 1986. According to Innovations in Civic Participation (ICP), the United States is home to the largest number of youth civic participation organizations in the world. ICP lists a wide range of examples of organizations, movements and associations.

Does the country have a national youth organiseation / association (council, platform, body)?

NO

BUDGET & SPENDING

While the Interagency Working Group on Youth Programs has listed federal departments and agencies that support youth programs, the combined spending has not been calculated and cannot be easily deduced from the available public documents. According to the World Bank, the United States spent 13.07% of its government expenditure and 5.43% of its GDP on education provision in 2009.

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

UNCLEAR

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

Source: World Bank

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

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Documents about United States

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- Centralise and disseminate information;
- Promote data collection and evaluation.