Factsheet: Venezuela

Last update: 9 June 2014

Is there a national youth policy?

Yes

Venezuela has a youth law from 2009 and a youth policy launched in 2013.

DEFINITION OF YOUTH

Venezuela’s 2009 national youth law defines youth as aged 15 to 30 years.

CANDIDACY AGE

| Lower House | 21 |
| Upper House | -- |

Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union Partially elected by other means.

MARRIAGEABLE AGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opposite Sex</th>
<th>Same Sex</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male 18</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female 18</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union Unicameral.


VOTING AGE

18

Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union

MAJORITY AGE

18

Source: Civil Code (1982)

CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

Minimum Age

From 12:15 years old, the state must prove criminal capacity. A child below 10 cannot be held legally responsible for their actions.


YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX

0.66

78 out of 170 countries.

Year: 2013

Source: Commonwealth Youth Programme

LITERACY RATES

98.90%

Both sexes (15-24) %

Year: 2015

Source: UNESCO

NET ENROLMENT RATE

Secondary School

74.34%

Both sexes %

Year: 2012

Source: UNESCO

PREVALENCE OF HIV

0.3%

Male (15-24) %

Year: 2013

Source: World Bank

0.2%

Female (15-24) %

TOBACCO USE

9.40%

Both sexes (13-15) %

Year: No data.

Source: WHO

11%

Male (13-15) %

7.2%

Female (13-15) %

YOUTH UNEmployMENT

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

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


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POLICY & LEGISLATION

Venezuela’s national youth policy, Mission: Young People of the Homeland (2013), aims for the full development, mobilisation and social inclusion of young people in the areas of including culture, science, sport and production. It has four overarching objectives:

- Educational, occupational, social, political and cultural inclusion;
- Mobilise training in recreation, culture and sport sectors;
- Support youth-driven projects, of social and economic value, which aid in national development;
- Reduce risk factors that can hinder the capacities and potential of young people.

As reported by Telesur TV in February 2014, a National Youth Fund was created as part of the policy, which will award VEF 500 million (USD 75.5 million) to “socio-productive” projects led by young people.

BUDGET & SPENDING

What is the budget allocated to the governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth and/or
The Ministry of Popular Power for Youth is the governmental body responsible for youth in Venezuela. Its mission is to promote the comprehensive development of young people through effective coordination with other governmental organs. Within the ministry lies the National Institute of Popular Power for Youth, which was created through the 2009 youth law. It is the policy arm of the ministry, responsible for the stewardship, formulation, and evaluation of policies that affect youth. It is advised by an interagency council to ensure coordination of policies.

The 2009 national youth law provides a description for a national youth council (National Council of Popular Power for Youth). The council would have the authority to represent youth in the design, monitoring and evaluation of policies, plans and programmes. It is tasked with the responsibility to report irregularities in the delivery of public services that may threaten the rights of young people. While state- and city-level youth councils have been created (e.g., Táchira, Catia), it is unclear if a national level youth council has been created.

In the 2014 state budget, the Ministry of Popular Power for Youth is allocated a budget of VEF 800.4 million (USD 127.3 million). According to the World Bank, Venezuela spent 20.66% of its government expenditure and 6.87% of its GDP on education provision in 2009.

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