**Benin**

Benin’s national youth policy defines youth as those aged between 12 and 35.

**DEFINITION OF YOUTH**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Marriageable Age</th>
<th>Candidacy Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opposite Sex</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male With Parental Consent</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male Without Parental Consent</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>Female With Parental Consent</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female Without Parental Consent</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE**

- **Net Enrolment Rates**
  - Secondary School: 19.95%
  - Male (15-24): 12.77%
  - Female (15-24): 27.34%
  - Both sexes (15-24): 21.96%

- **Literacy Rates**
  - Male (15-24): 65.60%
  - Female (15-24): 44.63%
  - Both sexes (15-24): 55.02%

- **Youth Development**
  - Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita: USD 751.92
  - Human Development Index (HDI): 0.436
  - Gini coefficient (GINI): 38.62

- **Prevalence of HIV**
  - Male (15-24): 0.2%
  - Female (15-24): 0.4%
  - Both sexes (15-24): 0.3%

- **Criminal Responsibility**
  - Minimum Age: 13

- **Majority Age**
  - Male: 18
  - Female: 18

- **Voting Age**
  - Male: 18
  - Female: 18

**YOUTH POLICY & LEGISLATION**

The national youth policy of Benin of 2001 aims to provide young people with opportunities to fully develop their physical, mental and moral faculties. The main purpose of the policy is to create favourable conditions for the inclusion of youth in all sectors of society and to become actors of sustainable development. The policy promotes the principles of commitment, solidarity, autonomy, responsibility, respect, citizenship, democracy, tolerance, equality of sexes, justice, peace, intercultural understanding, humanity, environmental protection and sustainable development. The policy foresees the creation of the High Council on Youth of Benin (CSJB) to define the guidelines of national youth policy, monitor and evaluate its implementation.

**Is there a national youth policy?**

Yes

The national youth policy was adopted in 2001. An assessment report was published in 2011.
YOUTH & PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

The Ministry of Youth, Sports and Recreation is the lead ministry with regards to youth affairs. It supports youth civic participation, training and financial support to youth entrepreneurs, and establishing of youth centres. The Ministry of Microfinance, Youth and Women Employment is responsible for youth employment activities.

Is there a governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth?  
Yes

YOUTH & REPRESENTATION

An advisory body for youth (OCJ) was established by Law No. 91-007 in 1991. The OCJ is the umbrella structure of youth organisations of Benin and deemed to represent their interests.

Does the country have national and/or regional youth council(s)?  
Yes

YOUTH BUDGET & SPENDING

According to the World Bank, Benin spent 27.75% of its government expenditure and 5.35% of its GDP on education provision in 2010.

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

Footnotes

1) A Human Development Index (HDI) value of zero means low human development, and a value of 1 means very high human development. HDI is a composite index measuring three dimensions: a long and healthy life, knowledge and a decent standard of living. (UNDP)

2) An Income Gini coefficient of zero means absolute equality, and a coefficient of 100 means absolute inequality. Note: figures multiplied by 100 for OECD data. (World Bank/OECD)

3) A Corruption Perception Index (CPI) value of zero means that a country is perceived as highly corrupt, and a value of 100 means it is perceived as very clean. (Transparency International)

4) A Press Freedom Index (PFI) value of zero means the highest degree of freedom that journalists, news organisations and netizens enjoy, and a value of 100 means it is perceived as very low. (Reporters Without Borders)

5) A Youth Development Index (YDI) value of zero means little or absolutely no youth development, and a value of 1 means the highest possible level of youth development attainable. YDI is a composite index measuring five domains: education, health, employment, political, and civic participation. (Commonwealth Youth Programme)