

Botswana

The national youth policy (2010) defines youth as between 15 – 35 years.

DEFINITION OF YOUTH

Marriageable Age

	Opposite Sex		Same Sex
	Without Parental Consent	With Parental Consent	
Male	21	18	XX
Female	21	18	XX

Homosexual acts illegal. Source: UNSD, ILGA

Candidacy Age

Lower House	21
Upper House	--

Unicameral.
Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union

Criminal Responsibility

Minimum Age
14

Under this age, it must be proved that the child had criminal capacity at the time of committing the offence.
Source: Government of Botswana – Children's Bill 2008

Majority Age

18

Source: Interpretation Act (Amended 2010)

Voting Age

18

Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union

SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

Net Enrolment Rates

Secondary School

60.79%

Both sexes (15-24) %

56.37% 65.25%

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

Year: 2008

Source: UNESCO

Literacy Rates

95.21%

Both sexes (15-24) %

93.48% 96.97%

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

Year: 2011

Source: UNESCO

Youth Development

0.55

105 out of 170 countries.

Year: 2013

Source: Commonwealth Youth Programme

Tobacco Use

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

23.6%

Both sexes (13-15) %

27.0% 20.5%

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

Year: 2010

Source: WHO

Prevalence of HIV

3.7%

Male (15-24) %

6.7%

Female (15-24) %

Year: 2012

Source: World Bank

YOUTH POLICY & LEGISLATION

The national youth policy (2010) takes a rights and responsibilities approach and outlines 12 strategic areas of action:

1. Youth employment
2. Youth, poverty and hunger
3. Youth and environment
4. Science and Information Technology
5. Youth and Leadership Development
6. Vulnerable Youth
7. Youth, Sport, Recreation and Creative Arts
8. Youth, Education, Skills Development and Training
9. Youth and Health
10. Youth, Moral and Spiritual Development
11. Youth, Gender and Development
12. Youth and Culture

The national youth plan (2010) outlines the actions, indicators and lead agency for each strategic area. As a member of the Commonwealth of Nations, Botswana is a signatory of The Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment (PAYE) 2006-2015.

youthpolicy.org – building a global evidence base for youth policy

YOUTH POLICY FACT SHEET

[HTTP://WWW.YOUTHPOLICY.ORG/FACTSHEETS/COUNTRY/BOTSWANA](http://www.youthpolicy.org/factsheets/country/botswana)

GDP PER CAPITA HDI GINI

USD 7238.02 0.634¹ --²

119 out of 187 countries.

Year: 2012, Source: World Bank

Year: 2012, Source: UNDP

Year: No data, Source: World Bank

CORRUPTION PERCEPTION PRESS FREEDOM

64³

30 out of 177 countries.

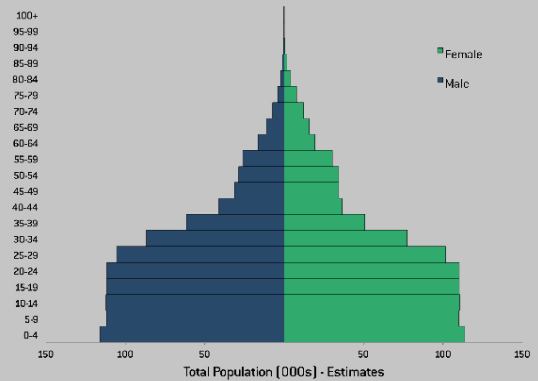
Year: 2013, Source: Transparency International

22.91⁴

40 out of 179 countries.

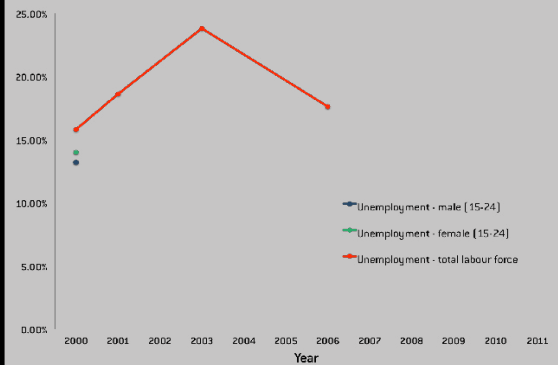
Year: 2013, Source: Reporters Without Borders

Population by Age and Sex 2010



Source: United Nations - Department of Economic and Social Affairs - Population Division 2012 Revision - Estimates. (Accessed August 2013).

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).

Is there a national youth policy?

Yes

A revised national youth policy was adopted in 2010, complemented by a National Action Plan 2010-2016.

YOUTH & PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

The [Department for Youth](#) within the [Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture](#) has responsibility for the implementation of the national youth policy and national action plan for youth. According to the [Department for Youth](#) website, it aims to, “create an enabling environment for youth to participate in the development of this country. The Department co-ordinates youth activities at national level.” Within government, the Multi-Sectoral Committees on Youth Programming coordinates youth policies and plans across individual ministries.

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

Yes

YOUTH & REPRESENTATION

The [Botswana National Youth Council](#) (BNYC) was established in 1974 and is an umbrella organisation for NGOs working on youth matters. It represents district-level youth councils and affiliate member organisations. The [national youth policy](#) (2010) indicates that, “BNYC acts as the “Voice of the youth” through the Department of Youth.” Botswana is also a member of the [Commonwealth Youth Council](#).

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

Yes

YOUTH BUDGET & SPENDING

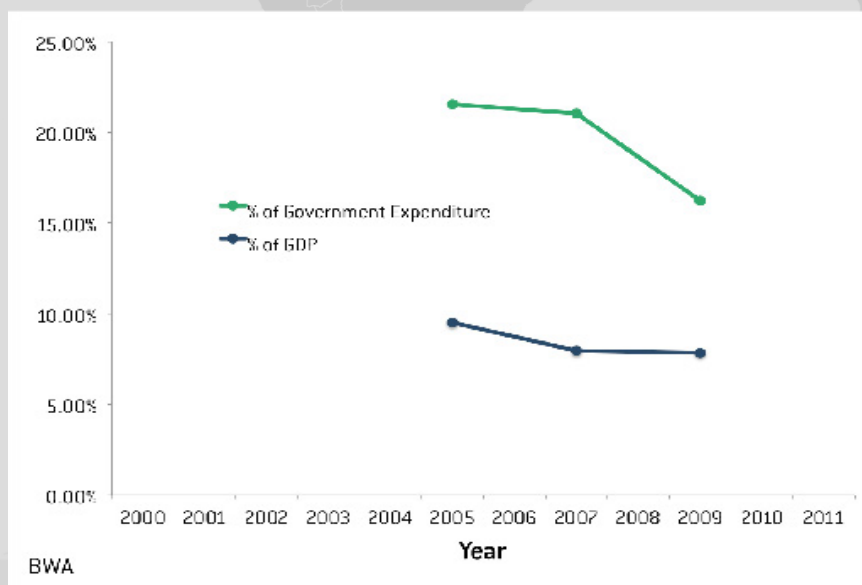
According to the [2013/14 Budget in Brief](#), the consolidated ministerial budget for the [Ministry of Youth, Sports and Culture](#) is BWP 479 million (USD 55.4 million). However, it is unclear what portion is spent specifically on youth.

According to the [World Bank](#), Botswana spent 16.23% of its government expenditure and 7.84% 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).

Publications & Reviews

Visit our library for further reading:
<http://www.youthpolicy.org/library/botswana>

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 the lowest. (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)



For full citation list & more information, visit:
<http://www.youthpolicy.org/factsheets/country/botswana>
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