

Factsheet: Costa Rica

Last update: 21 April 2014

DEFINITION OF YOUTH

In Costa Rica, the [General Law on Young Persons \(2002\)](#) defines youth as those aged between 12 and 35.

CANDIDACY AGE

Lower House **21**

Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#)

Upper House **--**

Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#)
Unicameral.

MARRIAGEABLE AGE

	Without Parental Consent	Opposite Sex With Parental Consent	Same Sex
Male	18	15	--
Female	18	15	--

No specific legislation for same-sex marriage. Source: [UNSD, ILGA](#)

VOTING AGE

18

Compulsory voting.
Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#)

MAJORITY AGE

18

Source: [Refworld](#)

CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

12

Minimum Age
Source: [Law on Juvenile Justice of Costa Rica \(2011\)](#)
[MACR in Latin America \(2002\)](#)

GDP PER CAPITA

USD 10184.61

Year: 2013

Source: [World Bank](#)

HDI

0.773

Year: 2013

Source: [UNDP](#)

68 out of 187 countries.

GINI

48.61

Year: 2012

Source: [World Bank](#)

CORRUPTION PERCEPTION

54

47 out of 177 countries.

Year: 2014

Source: [Transparency International](#)

PRESS FREEDOM

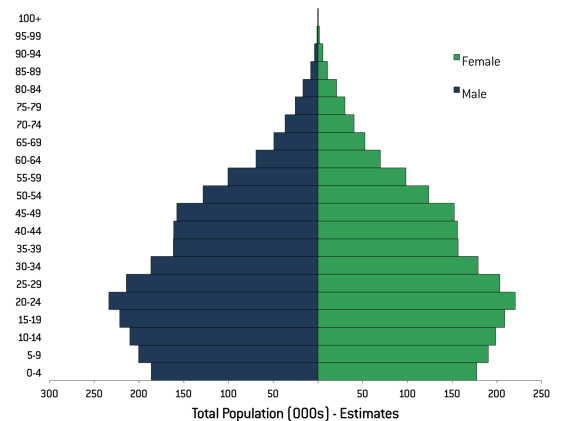
12.23

21 out of 180 countries.

Year: 2013

Source: [Reporters Without Borders](#)

POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX 2010



CRI

Source: [United Nations - Department of Economic and Social Affairs - Population Division](#)

2012 Revision - Estimates. (Accessed August 2013).

SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX

0.74

29 out of 170 countries.

Year: 2013

Source: [Commonwealth Youth Programme](#)

LITERACY RATES

99.32%

Both sexes (15-24) %

99.22% **99.43%**

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

Year: 2015

Source: [UNESCO](#)

NET ENROLMENT RATE

Secondary School

72.91%

Both sexes %

70.62% **75.34%**

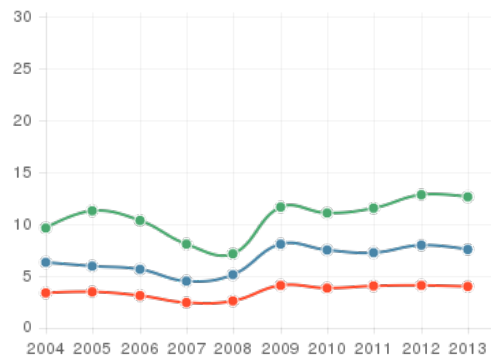
Male % Female %

Year: 2012

Source: [UNESCO](#)

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

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



SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

PREVALENCE OF HIV

0.1%

Male (15-24) %

0.1%

Female (15-24) %

Year: 2013

Source: [World Bank](#)

TOBACCO USE

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

14.60%

Both sexes (13-15) %

15.90%

Male (13-15) %

13.10%

Female (13-15) %

Year: 2010

Source: [WHO](#)

POLICY & LEGISLATION

The principles of the youth policy in Costa Rica are laid down in the [General Law on Young Persons \(2002\)](#). This law is complemented by the [Iberoamerican Convention on Rights of Youth](#). Both underpin the human rights approach that is fundamental to Costa Rica's youth policy. Priorities of the [national youth policy \(2010\)](#) are to enable young people to fully participate in public life and engage as citizens. It recognizes young people as rights-holders regardless of their socio-economic conditions, ethnic or religious affiliations, or sexual orientation. Non-discrimination and social equality of all young people is promoted. The [action plan \(2006\)](#) focuses on the rights to health, housing, education, work, culture, sport and recreation, political participation, personal integrity and non-violence.

Is there a national youth policy?

YES

Costa Rica adopted a new [national youth policy](#) in 2010, building on a [2006 action plan](#).

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

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

The key institution for youth is the [Ministry of Culture and Youth](#), which oversees youth policies and programming. The Deputy Minister of Youth coordinates the national system of youth – a network of organisations and institutions – and conveys youth issues to the rest of the Cabinet and citizens. Numerous other state agencies in the fields of health, housing, banking and education are also involved in the implementation of the [youth policy and action plan](#).

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

YES

youth programming?

CRC 30.7 MILLION
USD 61.8 MILLION

In 2011, the [Ministry of Culture and Youth](#) had a budget of CRC 30.7 million (USD 61.8 million). This was equal to 0.56% of the [national budget](#) of the respective year. It is unclear what portion of this amount was spent specifically on youth. According to the [World Bank](#), Costa Rica spent 23.06% of its government expenditure and 6.28% of its GDP on education provision in 2009.

YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION

Costa Rica has a [National Council of Young Persons](#). This representative body of youth organisations is consulted in the making of youth policy, contributes to decision-making, and engages with implementation. Young people are also involved in the local development and implementation of youth policies through the [Cantonal Committees of Young Persons](#). In 2013, the Council carried out a comprehensive [Youth Survey](#) that provides statistics on education, work, family life, health and perceptions of rights among young people.

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

YES

BUDGET & SPENDING

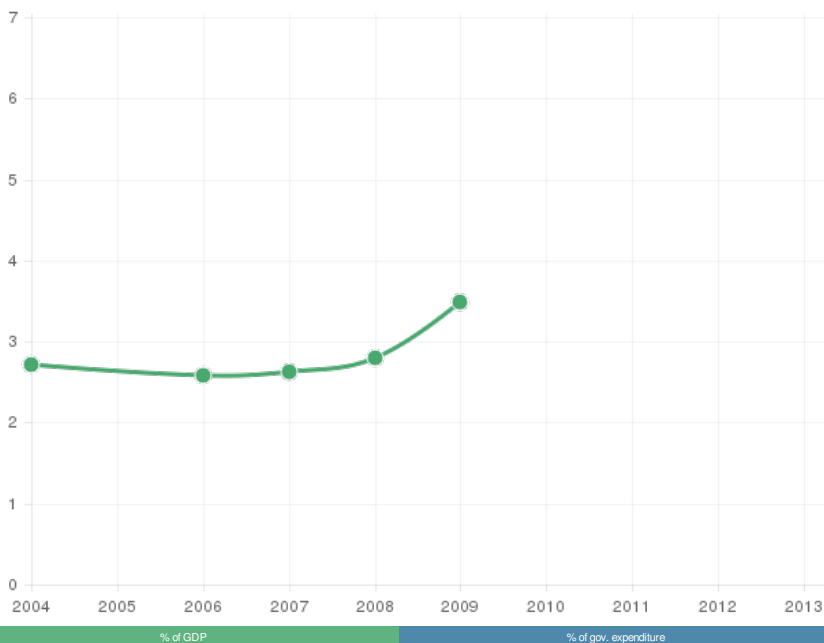
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TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION AS A PERCENTAGE OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND GDP

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).

% of GDP % of gov. expenditure

Source: [World Bank](#)
Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed August 2013).

PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS

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