Cuba has no dedicated national youth policy. Recently, the youth policy approach was summarised.

While Cuba has no youth policy, the Law 16/1978 on Childhood and Youth (1978) applies to individuals 30 years old or younger.

While Cuba has no single, unifying youth policy, it does have a number of policies that affect youth. According to the report Youth and Social Inclusion in the 21st Century Cuba: Contribution from Public Policies to the Building of Knowledge (2013), such policies are governed by the following principles: comprehensive approach; social equity; high participation; differential treatment for disadvantaged social groups, and priority for education, employment and health sectors. The strategy is "youth promotion and social inclusion aimed at strengthening cultural, technical and vocational training". Policies geared towards youth are characterised by considerable government centralisation, state funding and a promotion of universality and equity.

**DEFINITION OF YOUTH**

While Cuba has no policy, the Law 16/1978 on Childhood and Youth (1978) applies to individuals 30 years old or younger.

**CANDIDACY AGE**

| Lower House | 18 |
| Upper House | -- |

Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union

**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 16</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No specific legislation for same-sex marriage. Source: UNSD, ILGA

**VOTING AGE**

16

Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union

**MAJORITY AGE**

16

Source: CRIN

**CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY**

16

Minimum Age

Source: Penal Code of Cuba (1987)

**SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE**

**YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX**

0.79

10 out of 170 countries.

Source: Commonwealth Youth Programme

**LITERACY RATES**

99.99%

Both sexes (15-24) %

Source: UNESCO

**NET ENROLMENT RATE**

Secondary School

86.66%

Both sexes %

Source: UNESCO

**PREVALENCE OF HIV**

0.2%

Male (15-24) %

Source: World Bank

**TOBACCO USE**

17.10%

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

Source: WHO

**POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX 2010**

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


**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).

**BUDGET & SPENDING**

What is the budget allocated to the governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth and/or
There is no one governmental authority that is primarily responsible for youth. Policies regarding youth are cross-sectoral and spread over various policy areas. The lack of a group or entity responsible for the coordination of youth policies was identified as a weakness at the International Congress of Researchers on Youth in March 2013. At inter-governmental forums, such as the Organización Iberoamericana de Juventud, the Young Communist League participates as the body responsible for youth alongside other youth ministries in the region. However, it identifies itself as a voluntary organisation.

**YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION**

Founded in 1962, the Young Communist League (UJC) is one of the main youth organisations in Cuba. As the youth wing of the Communist Party of Cuba, it is unclear what role it plays in representing youth outside of its membership, or in decision-making. As described by Radio Rebelde, it identifies itself as a voluntary organisation with the objective to educate young people about the Cuban Revolution. UJC produces the newspaper Juventud Rebelde and represents Cuba in the Organización Iberoamericana de Juventud, the inter-governmental summit of youth ministries.

**BUDGET & SPENDING**

No documentation could be found on youth spending in Cuba. According to the World Bank, Cuba spent 18.35% of its government expenditure and 12.86% of its GDP on education provision in 2010.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>% of GDP</th>
<th>% of Gov. Expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td></td>
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<td>2006</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

**PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS**

Visit our library for further reading:
Documents about Cuba