

Factsheet: Dominica

Last update: 6 March 2014

DEFINITION OF YOUTH

Dominica's [national youth policy](#) (2004) defines youth as between 15-30 years, but notes "the various definitions of young people that have already been legislated."

CANDIDACY AGE

Lower House **21**

Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#) Partially appointed or by other means.

Upper House **--**

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

MARRIAGEABLE AGE

Opposite Sex **Same Sex**

WITHOUT PARENTAL CONSENT WITH PARENTAL CONSENT

Male **18** **16** **XX**

Female **18** **16** **XX**

Homosexual acts illegal. Source: [UNSD, ILGA](#)

VOTING AGE

18

Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#)

MAJORITY AGE

18

Source: [Age of Majority Act \(1983\)](#)

CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

12

Minimum Age

Children aged 12-14 years are held in "training schools". Those over 14 years may be imprisoned. Source: [Children and Young Persons Act of Dominica \(1991\)](#)

SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX

0.62

93 out of 170 countries.

Year: 2013

Source: [Commonwealth Youth Programme](#)

LITERACY RATES

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Both sexes (15-24) %

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

Year: No data.

Source: [UNESCO](#)

NET ENROLMENT RATE

Secondary School

83.43%

Both sexes %

Male % Female %

Year: 2011

Source: [UNESCO](#)

SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

PREVALENCE OF HIV

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Male (15-24) %

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Female (15-24) %

Year: No data.

Source: [World Bank](#)

TOBACCO USE

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

25.30%

Both sexes (13-15) %

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

Year: 2010

Source: [WHO](#)

POLICY & LEGISLATION

The mission of the [national youth policy](#) (2004) is "to create a framework that will ensure that young men and women in Dominica grow up with a sense of belonging and worth and are empowered to participate fully in the social and economic development of the nation." The policy focuses on six areas: 1) Employment; 2) Education and Training; 3) Health; 4) Drugs, Violence and Crime; 5) Recreation, Physical Education, Sports and Culture; 6) Community and Social Responsibility. As a member of the [Commonwealth of Nations](#), Dominica is a signatory of [The Commonwealth Plan of Action for Youth Empowerment \(PAYE\) 2006-2015](#). It lists 13 action points for member nations, including youth empowerment, youth governance, participation, gender equality, education, health and ICT.

Is there a national youth policy?

YES

The [national youth policy](#) of Dominica was adopted in 2004. It is currently under review.

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

GDP PER CAPITA

USD 7175.63

Year: 2013

Source: [World Bank](#)

HDI

0.745

Year: 2013

Source: [UNDP](#)

93 out of 187 countries.

GINI

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Year: No data.

Source: [World Bank](#)

CORRUPTION PERCEPTION

58

39 out of 177 countries.

Year: 2014

Source: [Transparency International](#)

PRESS FREEDOM

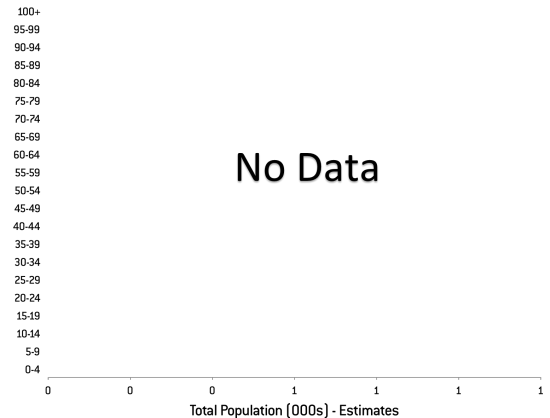
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Year: No data.

Source: [Reporters Without Borders](#)

POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX 2010



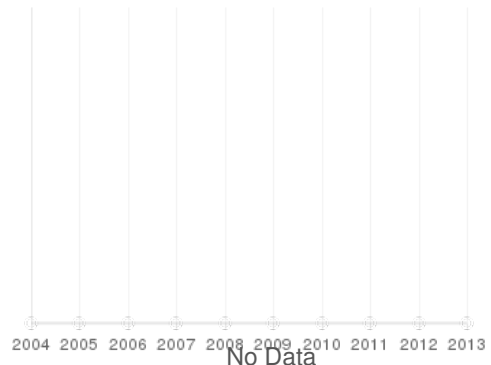
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Source: [United Nations - Department of Economic and Social Affairs - Population Division](#)

2012 Revision - Estimates. (Accessed August 2013).

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

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



male - (15-24)

female - (15-24)

total labour force

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

The [Youth Development Division](#) within the [Ministry of Culture, Youth & Sports](#) is responsible for youth affairs including the [national youth policy](#) (2004). Its mission:

To provide efficient and effective services geared towards empowering young men and women to develop their unique potential, creativity and skills as productive and participating members of the society...

It delivers a number of programmes focusing on business skills, leadership, volunteerism and the environment. It runs youth centres and Youth Enterprise Centres across the country.

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

YES

youth programming?
XCD 1.87 MILLION
USD 691,730

According to the [2012 - 2013 Budget for Ministries - Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports](#), the budget estimate for Youth Development programming for 2013/2014 was XCD 1.87 million (USD 691,730). The [World Bank](#) lists no data on public spending on education in Dominica for the last ten years.

YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION

The [National Youth Council of Dominica](#) (NYCD) was formed in 1970 and according to the [national youth policy](#) (2004), is formed of elected representatives from youth organisations and groups across the country. It is mandated "to coordinate the plans and programmes of affiliated groups within eight designated youth districts." It is considered an "equal partner and participant" in the policy process relating to young people in Dominica. Dominican youth are represented through the [CARICOM Youth Ambassadors](#) and the [Commonwealth Youth Council](#).

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

YES

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

BUDGET & SPENDING

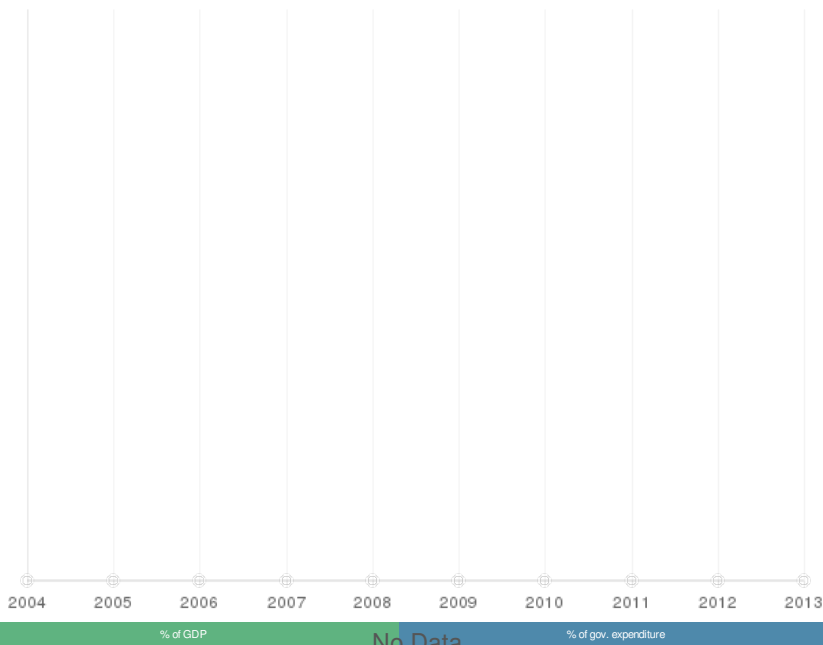
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What is the budget allocated to the governmental authority (ministry, department or office) that is primarily responsible for youth and/or youth programming?

XCD 1.87 MILLION
USD 691,730

No Data

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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