

# Factsheet: Iceland

Last update: 24 October 2014

## DEFINITION OF YOUTH

The Icelandic [Youth Act \(2007\)](#) covers youth activities for individuals between 6-25 years of age.

### CANDIDACY AGE

**Lower House** **18**

Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#)

**Upper House** **--**

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

### MARRIAGEABLE AGE

|        | Opposite Sex             |                       | Same Sex |
|--------|--------------------------|-----------------------|----------|
|        | WITHOUT PARENTAL CONSENT | WITH PARENTAL CONSENT |          |
| Male   | 18                       | 18                    | 18       |
| Female | 18                       | 18                    | 18       |

Same-sex marriage legal. Source: [UNSD, ILGA](#)

### VOTING AGE

**18**

Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#)

### MAJORITY AGE

**18**

Source: [General Penal Code of Iceland \(1940\)](#)

### CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

**15**

**Minimum Age**  
The Penal Code contains special considerations and measures in cases involving young persons aged 15-21.  
Source: [Penal Code of Iceland, Amended \(1940\)](#)

## SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

### YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX

**0.75**

18 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

**88.39%**

Both sexes %

**87.95%** **88.84%**

Male % Female %

Year: 2011

Source: [UNESCO](#)

### GDP PER CAPITA

**USD 47461.19**

Year: 2013

Source: [World Bank](#)

### HDI

**0.906**

Year: 2013

Source: [UNDP](#)

13 out of 187 countries.

### GINI

**26.3**

Year: 2010

Source: [World Bank](#)

### CORRUPTION PERCEPTION

**79**

12 out of 177 countries.

Year: 2014

Source: [Transparency International](#)

### PRESS FREEDOM

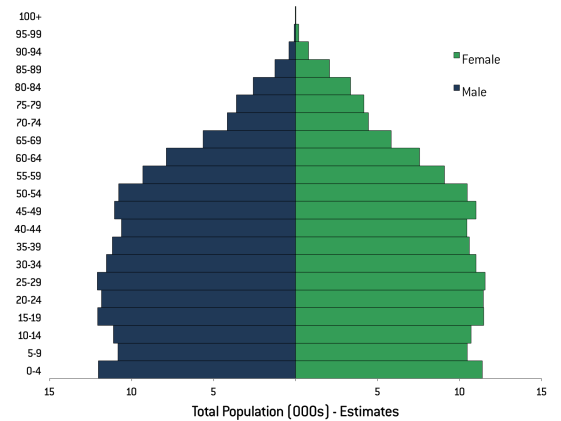
**8.5**

8 out of 180 countries.

Year: 2013

Source: [Reporters Without Borders](#)

## POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX 2010



## 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.

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Both sexes (13-15) %

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Male (13-15) %

**--**

Female (13-15) %

Year: No data.

Source: [WHO](#)

## POLICY & LEGISLATION

The [Youth Act \(2007\)](#) provides the legal basis to, "support children and young people for participation in youth activities." The aims of organised youth activities is to allow "children and young people to use their spare time working in concert for ideals, goals and interests which they themselves value. The Youth Fund is to designed to support youth clubs and youth organisations, including:

- Special projects for children and young people and/or with their active participation.
- Training of leaders, instructors and volunteers.
- Innovations and development projects.
- Joint actions of youth clubs and youth organisations.

The [Youth Act \(2007\)](#) defines the governance of youth affairs, safeguards in youth activities, the responsibility of municipal governments and the role of youth research.

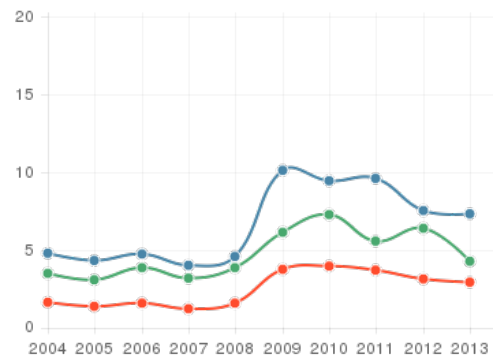
### Is there a national youth policy?

**NO**

Iceland has no national youth policy. A [2007 Youth Act](#) covers children and youth participation.

## YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

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



## BUDGET & SPENDING

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

## PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

The Department of Cultural Affairs at the [Ministry of Education, Science and Culture](#) is, "responsible for youth affairs outside formal education at governmental level." The Department, "supports youth organisations in many ways and has conducted youth research since the year 1992." According to the [Youth Act \(2007\)](#), a nine member Youth Council is appointed by the Minister which consults on youth affairs, recommends priorities and policy, advises on youth activities, plans youth conferences and participates in international youth opportunities.

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

**YES**

## YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION

The [Icelandic Youth Council \(LÆF\)](#) is a membership organisation and aims,

[to] encourage co-operation of Icelandic youth organizations, to work for their common goals, to encourage and promote youth activities and youth issues, to represent Icelandic youth organizations abroad, to have friendly relations with youth organizations all over the world, and to work for international causes of young people.

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

**YES**

The [Icelandic Youth Forum](#) is a forum of four youth organisations and aims to "promote a dialogue and increase cooperation of their member organisations."

## BUDGET & SPENDING

According to the [Treasury operating statement 2011-2014](#), the proposed budget for the [Ministry of Education, Science and Culture](#) is ISK 66.7 million (USD 581,858). The allocated spending for youth affairs is unavailable. According to the [World Bank](#), Iceland spent 14.74% of its government expenditure and 7.60% 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 and/or youth programming?

**UNCLEAR**

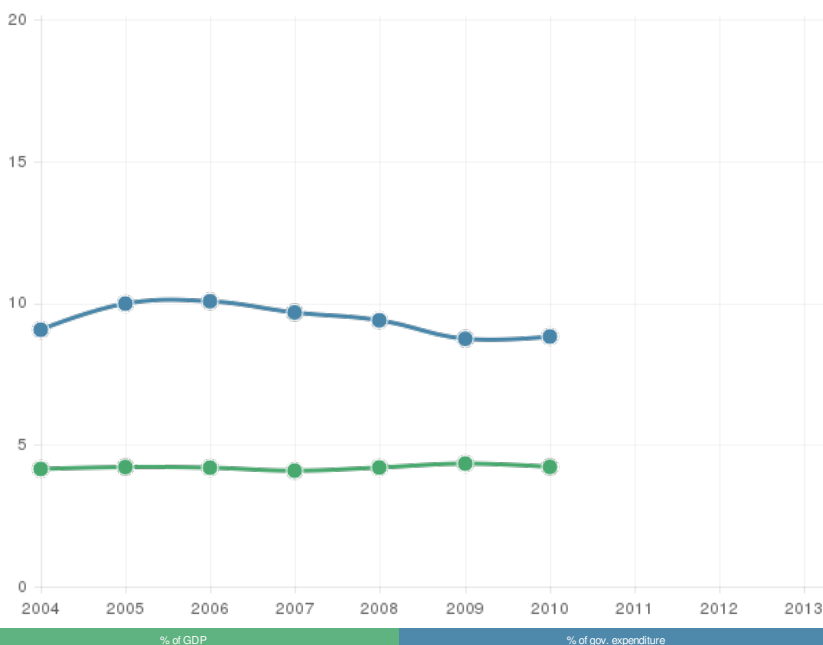
youth programming?

**UNCLEAR**

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

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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

Visit our library for further reading:  
[Documents about Iceland](#)