

# Factsheet: Jamaica

Last update: 22 April 2014

## DEFINITION OF YOUTH

The national youth policy (2003) of Jamaica defines youth as those between the ages of 15-24, "who [have] passed through the dependent stage of childhood, in the semi-independence of adolescence or who will soon acquire the maturity of adulthood."

### CANDIDACY AGE

**Lower House** **21**

Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union

**Upper House** **21**

Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union  
Entirely appointed.

### MARRIAGEABLE AGE

	Without Parental Consent	Opposite Sex With Parental Consent	Same Sex
Male	18	16	XX
Female	18	16	--

Male homosexual acts legal. Female homosexual acts legal, however no specific legislation for same-sex marriage. Source: UNSD, ILGA

Male homosexual acts legal. Female homosexual acts legal, however no specific legislation for same-sex marriage. Source: UNSD, ILGA

### VOTING AGE

**18**

Source: Inter-Parliamentary Union

### MAJORITY AGE

**18**

Source: Law Reform (Age of Majority) Act (1979)

### CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

**12**

Minimum Age  
Source: Child Care and Protection Act of Jamaica (2004)

### GDP PER CAPITA

**USD 5289.97**

Year: 2013

Source: World Bank

### HDI

**0.73**

Year: 2013

Source: UNDP

96 out of 187 countries.

### GINI

**45.51**

Year: 2004

Source: World Bank

### CORRUPTION PERCEPTION

**38**

85 out of 177 countries.

Year: 2014

Source: Transparency International

### PRESS FREEDOM

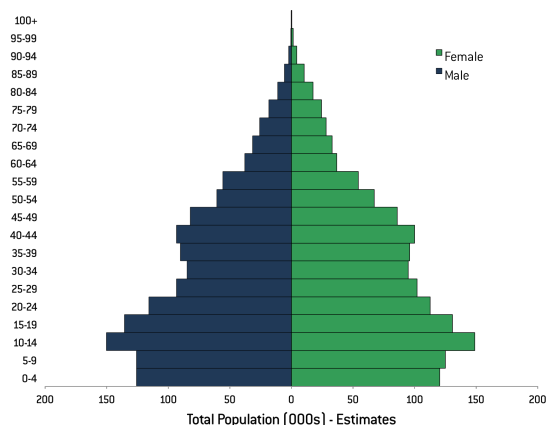
**10.9**

17 out of 180 countries.

Year: 2013

Source: Reporters Without Borders

## POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX 2010



JAM

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

2012 Revision - Estimates. (Accessed August 2013).

## SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

### YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX

**0.75**

22 out of 170 countries.

Year: 2013

Source: Commonwealth Youth Programme

### LITERACY RATES

**96.50%**

Both sexes (15-24) %

**94.21%** **98.86%**

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

Year: 2015

Source: UNESCO

### NET ENROLMENT RATE

Secondary School

**74.27%**

Both sexes %

**72.43%** **76.14%**

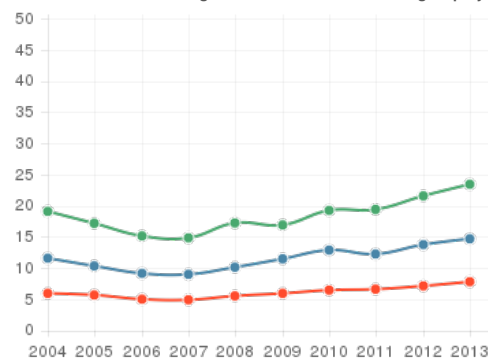
Male % Female %

Year: 2011

Source: UNESCO

## YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

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



## SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

### PREVALENCE OF HIV

**0.9%**

Male (15-24) %

**0.6%**

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.

**28.70%**

Both sexes (13-15) %

**31.30%**

Male (13-15) %

**24.60%**

Female (13-15) %

Year: 2010

Source: WHO

## POLICY & LEGISLATION

The vision of the national youth policy (2003) is of:

...Jamaican youth realising [their] full potential, through access to opportunities, to develop, participate and contribute as responsible citizens, to a peaceful, prosperous and caring society.

### Is there a national youth policy?

**YES**

The national youth policy of Jamaica was adopted in 2003 and is undergoing revision.

The policy focuses on six areas: Living Environments; Education and Training; Employment and Entrepreneurship; Health; Participation and Empowerment; Care and Protection. According to a press release on 12 January 2012, the youth policy is currently being revised and will focus on greater youth participation and employment opportunities. However, there is no detail of developments since 2012. As a member of the Commonwealth

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

## PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

The [National Centre for Youth Development](#), the youth division within the [Ministry of Youth & Culture](#), is "responsible for facilitating the co-ordination and integration of programmes, service and activities geared towards youth development, and recommending and designing programmes to enhance and propel youth development." Established in 2000 during the development of the [national youth policy](#) (2003), its main programmes include Youth Information Centres, youth services, career development and supporting youth participation structures.

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

**YES**

## YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION

The [National Youth Council of Jamaica](#) (NYCJ) is an umbrella organisation representing local youth clubs that provides "assistance in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of government policy regarding youth." The [Youth Ambassadors Programme](#) is made up of 22 young people acting as national and international ambassadors. They focus on thematic issues, such as disability, gender and education, and international forums. The NYCJ is a member of the [Commonwealth Youth Council](#) and the Youth Ambassadors are part of the CARICOM Youth Ambassadors programme.

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

**YES**

## BUDGET & SPENDING

According to the [2013-2014 Jamaica budget](#), the [National Centre for Youth Development](#) was allocated JMD 87 million (USD 795,729). "Youth Development Services" in total received JMD 519 million (USD 4.75 million). According to the [World Bank](#), Jamaica spent 11.48% of its government expenditure and 6.35% of its GDP on education provision in 2010.

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**JMD 87 MILLION  
USD 795,729**

youth programming?

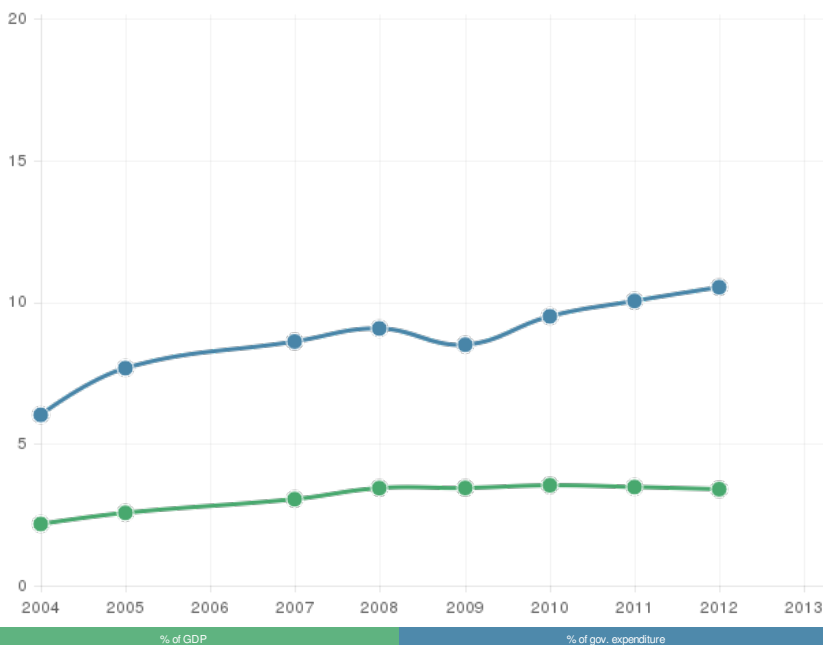
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## TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION AS A PERCENTAGE OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND GDP

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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](#)

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## PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS

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