

# Factsheet: Japan

Last update: 30 June 2014

## DEFINITION OF YOUTH

According to the [National Youth Development Policy \(2008\)](#) and the [White Paper on Children and Young People 2013](#), the term "youth" is generally defined as those between the ages of 0 and 30.

### CANDIDACY AGE

**Lower House** **25**

Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#)

**Upper House** **30**

Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#)

### MARRIAGEABLE AGE

	Without Parental Consent	Opposite Sex With Parental Consent	Same Sex
Male	--	20	18
Female	--	20	16

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

### VOTING AGE

**20**

Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#)

### MAJORITY AGE

**20**

Source: [Civil Code \(2006\)](#)

### CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

**14**

Minimum Age  
Source: [UN Child Rights Periodic Report \(2006\)](#)

### GDP PER CAPITA

**USD 38633.71**

Year: 2013

Source: [World Bank](#)

### HDI

**0.912**

Year: 2013

Source: [UNDP](#)

17 out of 187 countries.

### GINI

**32.11**

Year: 2008

Source: [World Bank](#)

### CORRUPTION PERCEPTION

**76**

15 out of 177 countries.

Year: 2014

Source: [Transparency International](#)

### PRESS FREEDOM

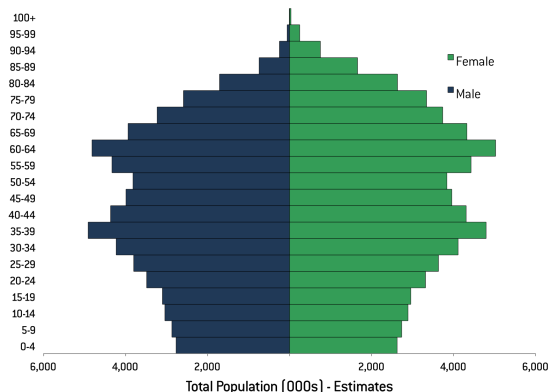
**26.02**

59 out of 180 countries.

Year: 2013

Source: [Reporters Without Borders](#)

## POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX 2010



Source: [United Nations Population Division - Department of Economic and Social Affairs, World Population Prospects The 2012 Revision \(Estimates\)](#); <http://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/Excel-Data/population.htm> (accessed July 2013)

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

## SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

### YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX

**0.79**

9 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

**99.14%**

Both sexes %

**98.78%** **99.53%**

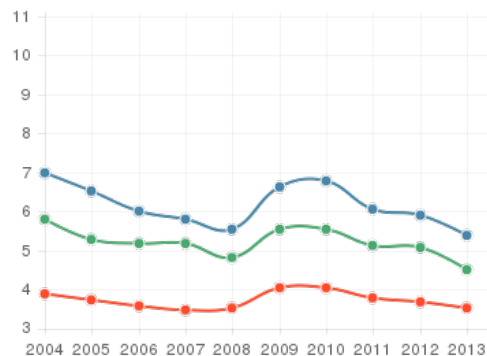
Male % Female %

Year: 2012

Source: [UNESCO](#)

## YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

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



## SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

### PREVALENCE OF HIV

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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) %

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Female (13-15) %

Year: No data.

Source: [WHO](#)

## POLICY & LEGISLATION

The [Vision for Children and Young People \(2010\)](#) outlines the 2009 Act on the Promotion of Development and Support for Children and Young People, and replaces the [National Youth Development Policy \(2008\)](#). Principles include treating youth as partners with adults and providing support to youth to become proactive members of society. Priority is given to promoting happy & active living, supporting youth facing difficulties and developing systems to implement measures at the local level. Some basic measures include: supporting self-development of youth (ex. basic life skills); supporting the social development and participation through programmes such as citizenship education; improving counselling systems to ensure the health and safety of youth, and; encouraging vocational independence and employment.

Is there a national youth policy?

**YES**

Japan has a 2010 [youth policy vision](#) and published an extensive [White Paper on Young People](#) in 2013.

male - (15-24)

female - (15-24)

total labour force

Source: [World Bank](#)

## BUDGET & SPENDING

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

## PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS

Within the Cabinet Office (which is the author of the [White Paper on Children and Young People 2013](#)), the [Director-General for Policies on Cohesive Society](#) lists the “[h]ealthy upbringing of the youth, including promotion of international youth exchange” as one of its responsibilities. The [2008 youth policy](#) has the “Headquarters for Youth Development” as its author, and the [Vision for Children and Young People](#) (2010) is written by the “Headquarters for Promotion of Development and Support for Children and Young People”.

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

**YES**

## YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION

Japan does not have a national youth council. Youth involvement in civil society is segmented by sector. For example, the [Japan Youth Ecology League](#) is one of the largest nation-wide networks of youth groups engaging in environmental activities. [ASEAN Youth Network in Japan](#) is also comprised of youth and student organisations in Japan, representing youth from the various ASEAN countries.

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

**NO**

## BUDGET & SPENDING

There is no data available on the budget of the youth activities taken on by the [cohesion section of the Cabinet Office](#). According to the [World Bank](#), Japan spent 9.41% of its government expenditure and 3.44% of its GDP on education provision in 2008. The World Bank reports that Japan spent 3.78% of its GDP on education in 2010, but does not calculate what this translate to in terms of percentage of government expenditure.

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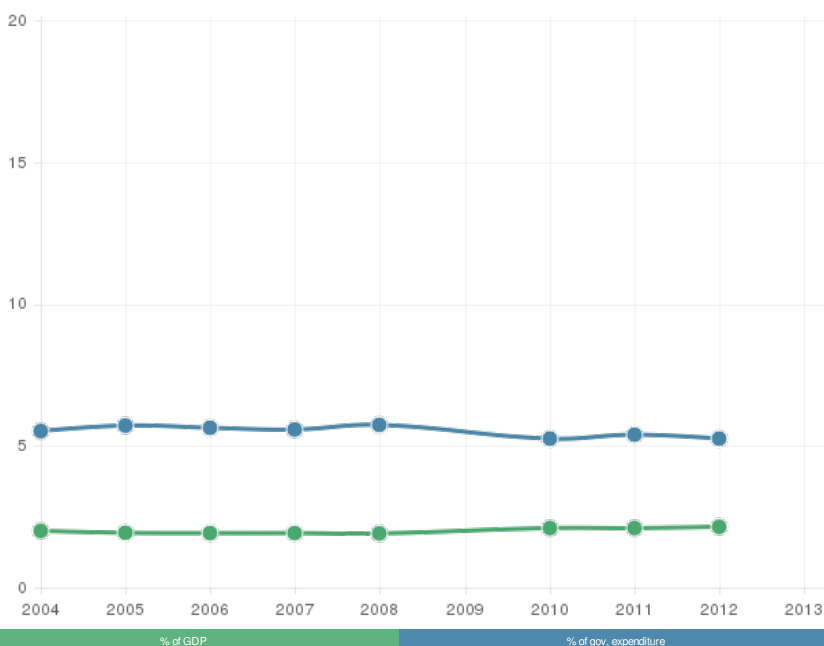
**UNCLEAR**

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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](#)

% of GDP % of gov. expenditure

Source: [World Bank](#)

## PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS

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