

Factsheet: New Zealand

Last update: 24 October 2014

DEFINITION OF YOUTH

New Zealand's [national youth development strategy](#) defines young people as between the ages of 12-24 years.

CANDIDACY AGE

Lower House **18**

Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#) Partially elected 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** **18**

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

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

VOTING AGE

18

Source: [Inter-Parliamentary Union](#)

MAJORITY AGE

20

Source: [Age of Majority Act \(1970\)](#)

CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY

10

Minimum Age

From 10-14 years old, the state must prove criminal capacity. A child below 10 cannot be held legally responsible for their actions. Source: [Children, Young Persons, and Their Families Act \(1989\)](#)

GDP PER CAPITA

USD 41555.83

Year: 2013

Source: [World Bank](#)

HDI

0.919

Year: 2013

Source: [UNDP](#)

7 out of 187 countries.

GINI

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Year: No data.

Source: [World Bank](#)

CORRUPTION PERCEPTION

91

2 out of 177 countries.

Year: 2014

Source: [Transparency International](#)

PRESS FREEDOM

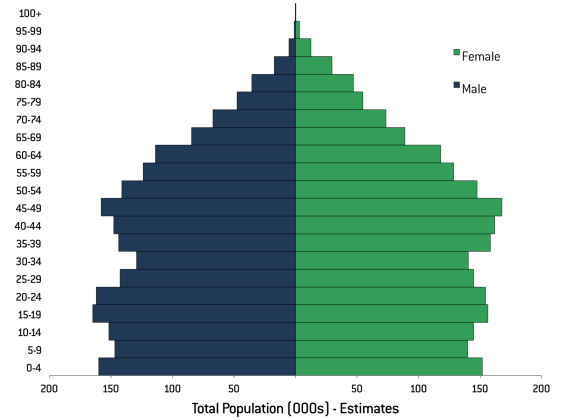
8.55

9 out of 180 countries.

Year: 2013

Source: [Reporters Without Borders](#)

POPULATION BY AGE AND SEX 2010



NZL

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

2012 Revision - Estimates. (Accessed August 2013).

SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX

0.8

6 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

96.96%

Both sexes %

96.84% 97.09%

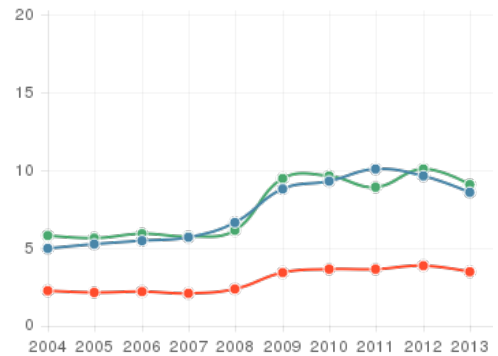
Male % Female %

Year: 2012

Source: [UNESCO](#)

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).

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.

20.10%

Both sexes (13-15) %

18.70%

Male (13-15) %

21.50%

Female (13-15) %

Year: 2010

Source: [WHO](#)

POLICY & LEGISLATION

The [national youth development strategy](#) vision is for a "country where young people are vibrant and optimistic through being supported and encouraged to take up challenges." The policy focuses on four goals:

1. Ensuring a consistent strengths-based youth development approach.
2. Developing skilled people to work with young people.
3. Creating opportunities for young people to actively participate and engage.
4. Building knowledge on youth development through information and research.

The strategy takes a "positive youth development" approach with regard to international obligations and indigenous communities in particular. It is closely linked to the [Agenda for Children](#) and various health, crime and protection plans.

Is there a national youth policy?

YES

New Zealand has a [national youth development strategy](#). An [extensive review](#) was undertaken in 2009.

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 [Ministry of Youth Development](#) is an amalgamation of the former Ministry of Youth Affairs and the Ministry of Social Development's previous responsibility for youth policy. The Ministry supports young people in "using their knowledge, skills and experience to participate confidently in their communities." It has three key functions: (1) Encouraging and supporting a youth development approach;(2) Supporting and facilitating youth involvement and input into decision-making processes, and; (3) Funding of youth development services.

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

YES

YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION

No independent national youth council could be located, however, a range of participation structures exist under the [Ministry of Youth Development](#). The national [Aotearoa Youth Voices network](#) brings together "young people, government and community decision-makers." Members of the network can then be selected to the National Youth Advisory Group, which "provide[s] government and community agencies with timely advice on many different issues." The annual [Youth Parliament](#) also offers a 'mock' Parliament session.

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

NO

BUDGET & SPENDING

The [2013/14 budget](#) estimates provides, NZD 5.2 million (USD 4.3 million) for the provision of implementation of the Youth Development Strategy Aotearoa, NZD 889,000 (USD 727,534) for the Youth Development Partnership Fund and NZD 2.9 million (USD 2.7 million) for leadership and service delivery to promote the interests of, and improve outcomes for, young people. According to the [World Bank](#), New Zealand spent 16.08% of its government expenditure on education provision in 2008, and 7.26% of its GDP in 2011.

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

**NZD 9 MILLION
USD 7.4 MILLION**

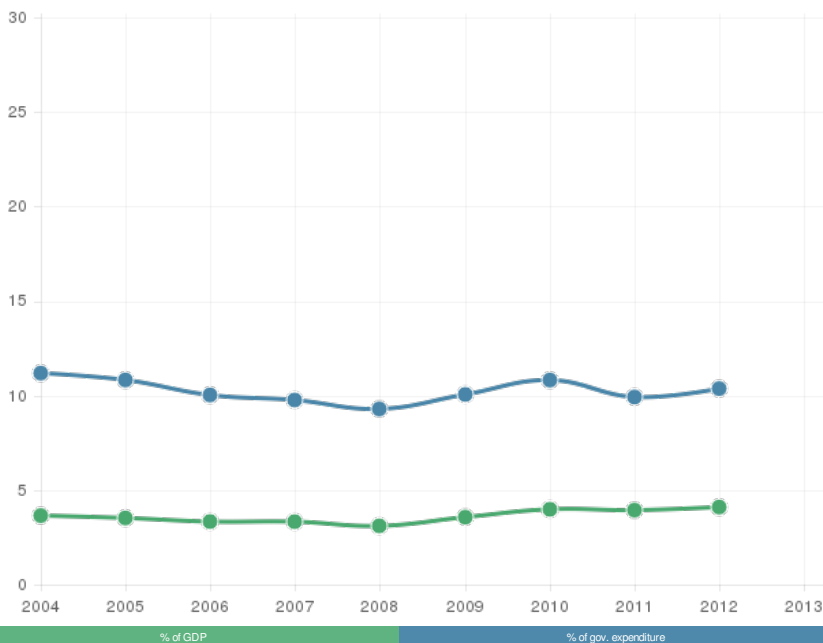
youth programming?

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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](#)
Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed August 2013).

PUBLICATIONS AND REVIEWS

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